Oil companies raise prices by 50 centavos

STORY ON PAGE A2

KIM CAMACHO

TODAY IN THE Sunday INQUIRER Magazine
- Kim Camacho's treasures next to Lito
- Model behavior: Jo Ann Bitagcol
- Death March survivors

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
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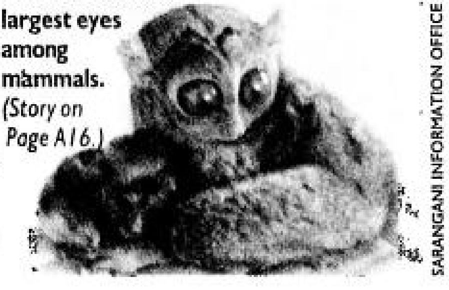

MAMA tarsier cuddles up to her infant, born last Saturday in Malungon, Sarangani. The world's smallest primates, tarsiers have the largest eyes among mammals. (Story on Page A16.)

SARANGANI INFORMATION OFFICE

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph April 7, 2002 ★ 78 pages / 7 sections vol.17 / no. 118 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Terror in the Holy Land

Israel poised to attack one of Christianity's holiest shrines

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—The spokesperson of the Franciscan in the Holy Land has expressed fears the Israeli army is trying to legitimize an "imminent" attack on the Church of the Nativity by declaring the friars inside as hostages.

"There are allegations that the Israeli army has decided to consider the Franciscan friars at the Shrine of the Nativity in Bethlehem as 'hostages,'" Fr. David Jaeger said on Friday.

"It is impossible not to fear that the use of this term is meant . . . to legitimize a perhaps imminent military assault," he said in the statement carried by Fides, the news agency of the Vatican's missionary arm.

"The friars are not hostages. They are in their own house, in the precise place where they belong," said Jaeger, who is currently in Rome.

"Any armed assault involving the most Sacred Place, on whatsoever pretext, and however it may be presented, must be absolutely out of the question."

Some 200 Palestinian gunmen and civilians took refuge inside the church on Tuesday and have remained holed up along with 40 Franciscan monks and four nuns as Israeli troops ringed the complex, one of the holiest sites in Christendom.

Israel accuses the Palestinians of using the church as a sanctuary and seeking shelter among the clergymen there, in effect taking them hostage. Palestinians say it is the Israeli troops surrounding the church who have effectively taken its occupants hostage.

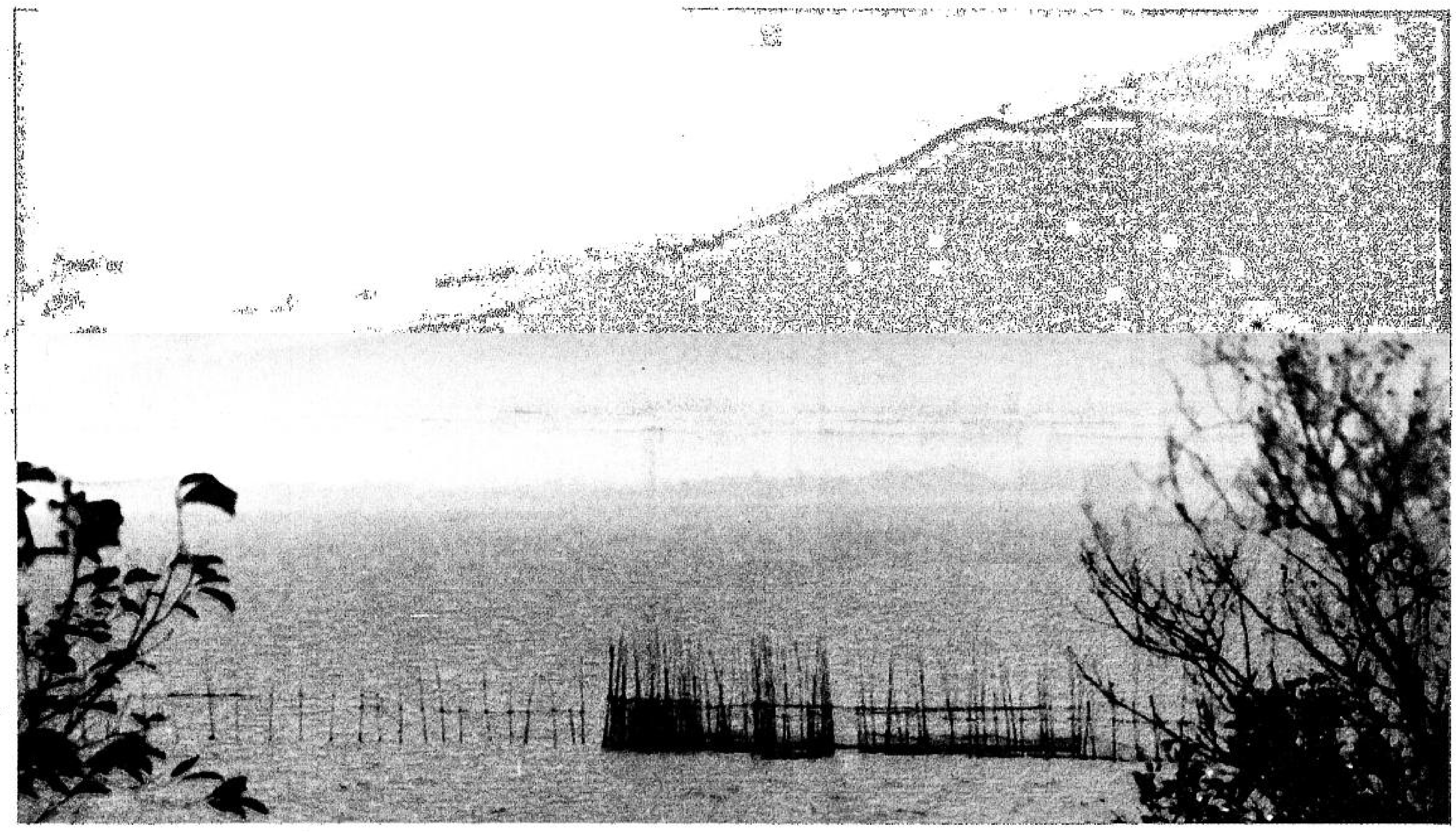
The church is built on the place where Christians believe Jesus was born.

The Israeli army said earlier that it helped four priests slip out on Friday without the knowledge of those inside. But Fides said an envoy of the Holy See in Israel negotiated the departure of the four priests.

Two of the priests left for health reasons while another had to travel to Italy.

Fr. Giacomo Bini, the head of the

TERROR/A18


SUMMERING
Where Mt. Makiling communes with Laguna de Bay, where the mists curtain mountain and sea, there the sunburned soul longs to be for refreshment and serenity.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

80 vets to retrace Death March

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Eighty World War II veterans from Pampanga and Bataan will retrace the route of the infamous Death March from April 9 to 10 as a tribute to the Filipino veterans who first revived the Bataan Day commemoration 16 years ago.

The two-day event follows the nine-town trail established by Capt. Ricardo Romero, a Death March survivor who retraced the route for the first time after the end of the Marcos dictatorship.

During the first retracing of the Death March route in 1986, Romero and the late VFP post commander Fortunato Cuyco broke down in tears several times, recalled Ed Paez, president of the San Fernando Runners Unlimited (Safer Run), the organizer of the event.

Romero and Cuyco recalled the agony of defeat, the sight of comrades left dead on the road, the starvation and exhaustion from walking barefoot and the indignity of imprisonment at the prison camp four days later.

Bataan, the last battle frontier where Filipino and American troops withdrew from Manila in 1941 to await US reinforcements that never came, fell on April 9, 1942 after an unstoppable

80 VETS/A19

JEREMAIA' S STORY

Girl's fight raises hope for ailing kids

THE JOY of Jeremaia, 3, the Mayo Clinic's first humanitarian case from Asia.

By Jess Matubis Jr.

OUR only granddaughter Jeremaia was a year old when she had a six-hour liver transplant operation at the St. Mary's Hospital of the famed Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Thanks to God's intervention and blessings, she was snatched from the brink of death and given a chance to live a normal life. She is now 3 years old and a source of joy to those around her.

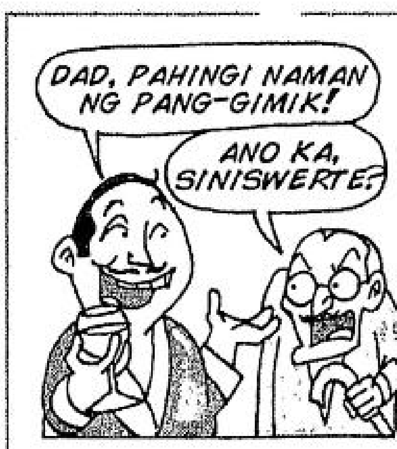
Jeremaia was the Mayo Clinic's first humanitarian case from Asia. Her $250,000-plus operation was for free, thanks to the decision of the clinic's board of trustees. And thanks as well to the endorsement of Meladee Hughes, executive director of the Bridges Across Atlantic, a Chicago-based foundation that brings children and babies from Europe and Asia in need of extreme medical care to hospitals in the United States.

But more than these, our family, which had no solid spiritual life before Jeremaia was born, believes that it was God who was at work. Now we are trying to repay His blessings by helping other babies similarly afflicted.

Jeremaia was born with a rare and fatal ailment called biliary atresia, and her liver had no bile ducts.

As the bile builds up within the liver, it scars the organ, leading to cirrhosis

GIRL'S/A18


DAD, PAHINGI NAMAN NG PANG-GIMIK!
ANO KA, SINISWERTE?

Fathers told to support spoiled adults

ROME—In a ruling that has sent a shiver down many parents' spines, Italy's highest appeals court has decreed that fathers must carry on supporting adult children until they find a job to their liking.

Psychologists warned the decision could discourage people from having children in a country whose birthrate is already one of the lowest in the world, while commentators said it could boost Italy's already high unemployment rate.

The case revolves around a wealthy family in the southern

FATHERS/A19

To Catholics, all sins are forgiven, if . . .

By Dennis Arroyo
Contributor

IT IS a day of special privilege for Catholics today, Sunday, April 7. Catholics who have gone to confession during Lent and take holy communion will obtain the complete forgiveness of their sins and the punishment called down by them.

This was the "surprise" announcement of Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000 when he officially established the feast of Divine Mercy to be held on every first Sunday after Easter. On that day he canonized the Polish nun, Sister Faustina Kowalska, whose life centered on God's mercy toward every human being. She had received messages from Jesus on the Divine Mercy, and the Vatican has officially approved the messages.

Jesus told Saint Faustina that He wanted the Church to recognize the first Sunday after Easter as the Feast of Mercy. Those who go to confession and communion on that day will be granted complete forgiveness of sin and punishment.

"On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open," the messages of Jesus said. "I pour out a whole ocean

TO/A18

NAKU! PATAY NA NAMAN KAMI!

Second FRONT PAGE

Oil firms hike prices by 50¢

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE WAITING game is over.

Oil refining giant Petron Corp. made the first move in the widely anticipated round of fuel price hikes, increasing the prices of its gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos per liter effective 6 p.m. yesterday.

At 10 p.m., Shell followed suit and by midnight, Caltex and new oil firms TotalFinaElf Petroleum Corp. followed with the same rate increase. Eastern Petroleum Corp. upped its prices by 45 centavos per liter.

Yesterday's round of price increases was the first of a series of phased adjustments, said Virginia Ruivivar, Petron's corporate communications manager.

"The price change aims to reflect the increase in crude costs equivalent to P1.35 per liter in March," Ruivivar said in a phone interview.

Next round

She said Petron believes that increasing prices in installments would have a "softer" impact on consumers as compared with a one-time hike.

The next round of price increases might come at the end of the month, she said.

Ruivivar said average Dubai crude prices had gone up to $25.26 per barrel this month, an increase of 37 percent from $18.48 in January.

"Prices of local refined products increased by only 2 percent in the same period," the Petron official said.

Oil prices last went up on March 20—by 35 centavos per liter for gasoline and 30 centavos for diesel and kerosene.

Based on the energy department's monitoring, the latest round of price increases brought up Petron's average pump prices in Metro Manila thus: P17.78-P17.93 for Blaze; P17.27-P17.50 for XCS; P16.71-P16.93 for unleaded; P13.22-P13.62 for diesel; P1285-P13.29 for kerosene.

Total's prices moved to P16.30-P17.42 for gasoline and P13.43-P13.63 for diesel.

Eastern Petroleum has yet to open a service station in Metro Manila.

Inevitable

Seaoil Petroleum, Flying V, Unioil and other firms have yet to announce price changes.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said last week price increases were inevitable considering the steep rise in world crude prices, but that consumers at least had a choice when buying fuel.

"We advise motorists to be smart consumers and be aware that refilling stations have varying prices depending on their location," Perez said.

FIGHTING MACHINES. They can't shoot first but they can shoot back. US Special Forces (squatting and center right) join Filipino militiamen in their hunt for the Abu Sayyaf bandit group holding two Americans hostage in the mountains of Basilan, which was the scene of several clashes between the Filipino-American forces and the Abu Sayyaf before the weekend. EDWIN BACASMAS

Yanks arrive for northern exercise

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—American forces participating in this year's second large-scale Visiting Forces Agreement-related military exercise have begun arriving here since Thursday.

The troops comprise "support elements who will prepare the logistics and technical requirements of the training dubbed Balikatan 02-2 which starts on April 22," according to Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information officer of the Philippine Air Force's 600th Air Base Wing based here.

At least 1,700 American soldiers are expected to join their Filipino counterparts for the month-long exercise in various parts of Luzon, which hosted until 1991 two of the United States' largest military bases in the world.

The Balikatan war games, which resumed in 1999 after the VFA was ratified that year, were usually held in Luzon and for shorter periods.

A similar military exercise with a contingent comprised of 660 US Special Forces members is being held for the first time in Mindanao following the US government's declaration of a global war on terrorism.

Mindanao, Sulu and Basilan provinces specifically, is home to the Abu Sayyaf kidnap for ransom group that has been linked to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden.

The Abu Sayyaf also continues to hold two Americans and a Filipino hostage.

In March, US military officials began referring to the Balikatan in Mindanao, which is expected to last from six months to one year, as part of the anti-terror "Operation Enduring Freedom."

With 1,700 troops, the number of participants in the Luzon training this month will be bigger than the 1,500-strong contingent that joined past Balikatan exercises.

Equipment for the training also arrived on a commercial vessel that docked at Subic, Zambales, it was learned.

On Friday, five US military aircraft were transferred to the south ramp of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here. These will be used for routine training flights, PAF officials said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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Clarification

NATIONAL Artist Levi Celerio's wife by marriage is Leonila Ladia Jose, with whom he had two children, Divina Celerio-Inocencio and Nora Celerio. Leonila, who is now 82, lives with the family of Divina.

Olivia Celerio, one of the children of the late National Artist, provided this information yesterday to clarify the story of the INQUIRER on Friday, which identified Adela David as Celerio's first wife.

Celerio died Monday at 91 from multi-organ failure. The date of his burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani will be announced later.

His body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, and will be transferred to the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Wednesday for necrological services befitting a National Artist.

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Militants rap gov't 'attitude' in Marcos cases

MILITANTS yesterday assailed the Macapagal administration's "nonchalant" attitude toward efforts to recover the alleged Marcos ill-gotten wealth, saying the government is perpetuating the "sin of omission" committed by its predecessors.

Selda, a group of martial law victims seeking redress from the Marcoses, cited the government's "deliberate inaction" in pursuing criminal and forfeiture cases against the Marcoses and their cronies.

Marie Hilao Enriquez, Selda secretary general, said government officials dealing with Marcos cases merely "take their cue from whoever is in the central leadership and is in a position to strike deals with the Marcoses for political gain."

Her remarks greeted reports the Ombudsman had "dismissed" 92 out of 111 criminal cases filed against the Marcoses and their cronies by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

How exactly those 92 cases were lost should be fully revealed to the people through a "legal audit" to be undertaken preferably by volunteer private lawyers, Selda leaders told a media forum.

Another Selda leader, Marivere San Antonio, said President Macapagal-Arroyo's "nonchalant uninterested" attitude toward the recovery of the Marcos wealth is a "sin of omission" that makes her no different from former Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

In the same forum, lawyer Jason Lamchek of the Public Interest Law Center joined Selda in calling for a detailed auditing of the 92 dismissed cases.

He urged private lawyers to volunteer and conduct a separate examination of the case records to pinpoint the officials responsible and how much had been lost in terms of unrecovered Marcos wealth.

"Heads need not roll," said Trinidad Herrera, who suffered torture in the hands of the military during martial law.

"With liable government officials likely to cover each other's tracks and the state not being able fulfill its responsibility to tell the whole truth to the people, let private individuals do it," she said. ***Volt Contreras***

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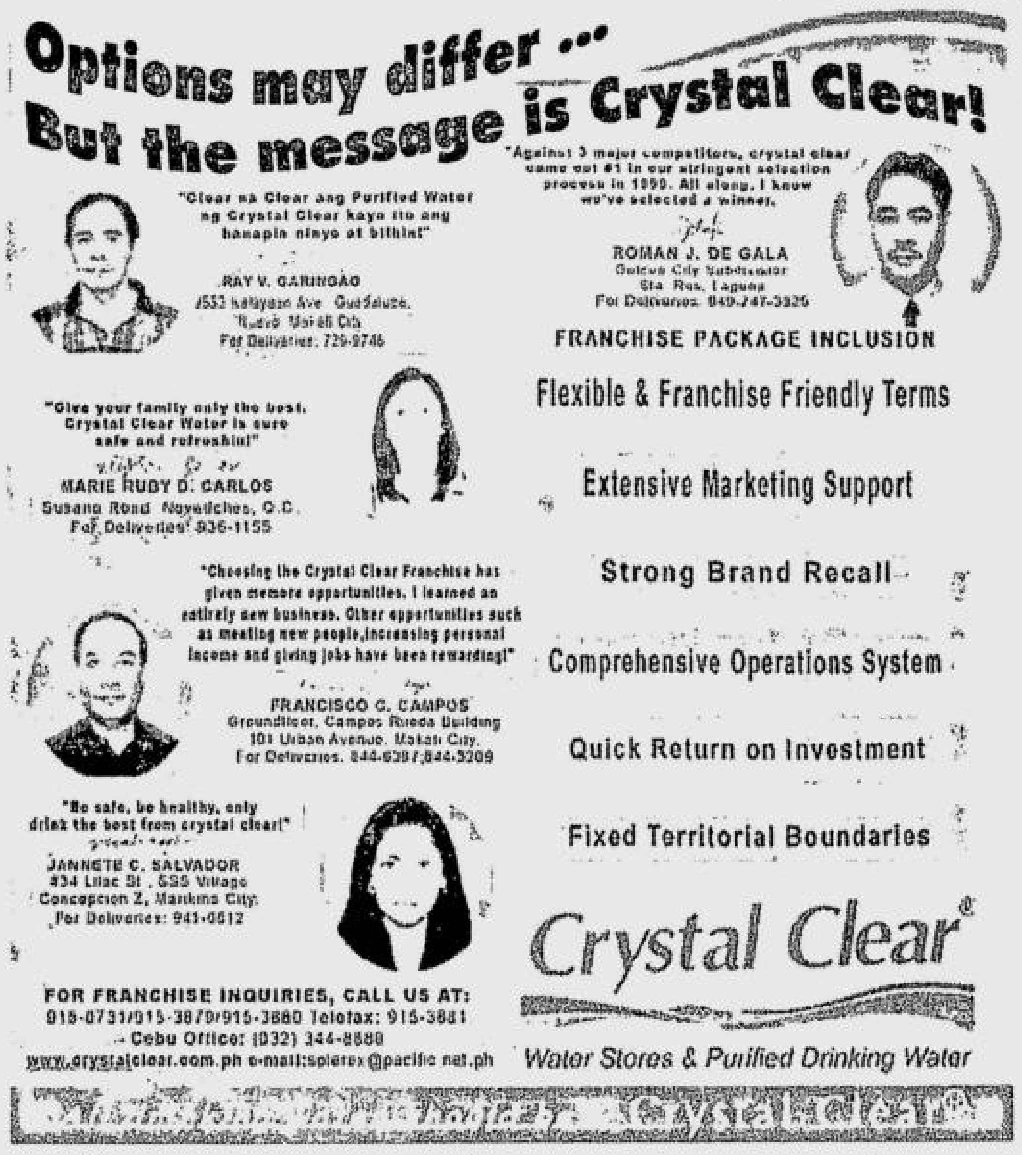
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Water firms may not get rate hike–MWSS

By A. Nocum

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System is unlikely to grant the rate increase being sought by the two water concessionaires which might instead be ordered to reduce their rates if these are found to be too high.

Public Works Secretary and MWSS chair Simeon Datumanong said the MWSS board was reviewing and assessing water rates in other parts of the world to find out the "true rate" that should be charged by the Manila Water Co. and the Maynilad Water Services.

"We will see what will happen after the rate re-basing," he said in a phone interview.

Datumanong said the re-basing study was provided for in the contracts between the MWSS and the two concessionaires.

The secretary explained that the concessionaires had already been granted increases but re-basing would determine whether water rates can still be increased or even reduced.

The outcome of the rate re-basing will form the "basis for the tariff or rate of water (per cubic meter) that will be imposed in Metro Manila."

Datumanong said the MWSS already granted Maynilad an increase of P4.21 per cubic meter and Manila Water, P2 per cubic meter last year.

Instead of granting more increases, he said the MWSS board would rush the re-basing to end "much speculation" on the issue.

He said the board might come up with its findings by the end of June.

The rate re-basing is being undertaken jointly by the MWSS Regulatory Office under Herman Cimafranca, the concessionaires and an economic team from the University of the Philippines. The latter group was tapped to ensure "proper accounting."

Datumanong said President Macapagal-Arroyo should not be blamed for increased water rates. It was not her fault that the rate of the peso against the dollar fell from P26 when the concessions were granted, to the current P51 to the dollar.

SC rules Meralco can't just cut power

BAGUIO CITY—The Supreme Court upheld the rights of a consumer when it ruled here on Wednesday that the Manila Electric Co. erred in disconnecting the power supply of one of its customers without conclusive evidence of meter tampering from the Energy Regulatory Board.

The court said it could not "allow (Meralco) to act virtually as prosecutor and judge in imposing the penalty of disconnection due to alleged meter tampering."

"That would not sit well in a democratic country. After all, Meralco is a monopoly that derives its power from the government. Clothing it with unilateral authority to disconnect would be equivalent to giving it a license to tyrannize its hapless customers," the court said.

But the court also held that all civil rights must be responsibly applied.

Hence, the petitioners, Antonio and Lorna Quisumbing, were found equally liable for the tampered meters.

The Quisumbing couple, owners of a furniture export firm, sued Meralco in 1995 for cutting off their power supply after confirming that the couple's electric meter had been tampered with.

Meralco demanded that the couple pay P193,332.96 representing unregistered electricity consumption.

Jovelyn Reyes and Vincent Cab-reza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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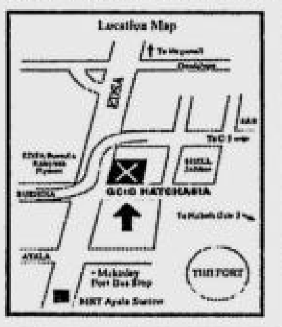

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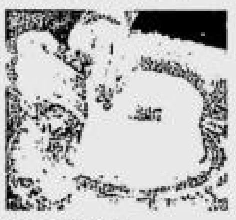

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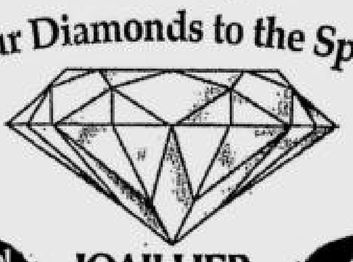

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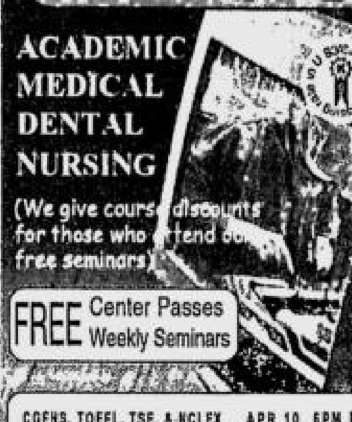

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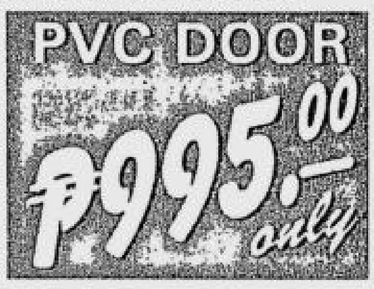

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Solons say Cha-cha done deal, only question is how

By Rocky Nazareno
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

AS THOUGH the issue of constitutional change was no longer a matter for discussion, legislators have begun debating whether the amendments should be done through a constituent assembly or a constitutional convention.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the debate no longer centered on whether there should be charter change or not but on the process and the timing.

Pangilinan said senators from both the ruling majority and the opposition have reached a consensus that several provisions in the Constitution have to be changed.

Among these are the issues on adopting a federal system of government, the return of power over the police to local government units, and allowing foreign ownership of land and public utilities.

Pangilinan said the debate now centered on what process to adopt—the con-con or the constituent assembly.

Under the 1987 Constitution, there are three ways to amend the Charter—through a con-con, through Congress acting as a constituent assembly or through a people's initiative.

With the strong congressional push for Charter change, a people's initiative may no longer be an option.

P1 billion

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, one of the key proponents of change through a constituent assembly, warned yesterday that it would cost taxpayers at least P1 billion to elect a constitutional convention.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco has urged that Congress call an election for con-con delegates in November. He described a con-con as "the fairest and most democratic way."

But Gonzalez said a constitutional convention would be "very, very expensive" as it would require electing at least two delegates per district. There are more than 200 congressional districts.

Besides, a con-con does not guarantee that "you will get the best minds," he said.

"How can you be sure that those who will be elected will not be relatives of or people beholden to politicians?" Gonzalez said.

By contrast, it would take only a "minimal expense" to convene Congress into a constituent assembly, he said.

He said the 12th Congress could do its job as a constituent assembly in the mornings and hold their regular legislative sessions in the afternoons.

Long time

Gonzalez is also concerned that the Constitution could be opened to wholesale change as a con-con tends to have a life of its own.

Western Samar Rep. Eduardo Nachura, chair of the committee on constitutional amendments, said a con-con could take a long time. He said the committee's target was to finish all consultations this year, have the Charter change done next year and the changes submitted to a plebiscite during the 2004 national elections.

In a survey conducted up to October last year by the committee, 75 of 112 congressmen said they wanted a constituent assembly while 35 favored a con-con.

Senate sources said the House in particular might not favor a con-con as this would be tantamount to yielding political power to the con-con representatives.

'Win-win'

"They would be robbed of credit. That's why congressmen would not be too keen on pushing for a con-con," the source said.

Under Section 3, Article 17 of the Constitution, Congress, by a vote of two-thirds of all its members, is empowered to call a con-con or constitute itself into a CA.

The source added that Senate President Franklin Drilon has come up with a "win-win" alternative and has presented this before some senators and congressmen.

High court upholds death penalty on 4 men

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court has sent four more convicted killers to Death Row.

In a full-court decision, the high tribunal upheld the death sentences imposed on Orlando and Fernando Dinamling, Jacinto Linnam and Jose Dinamman. The four were convicted of killing two men during a *sari-sari* store robbery in Cordon, Isabela, in June 1995.

The Santiago City Regional Trial Court Branch 35 imposed in 1998 the maximum penalty of death on the four for killing Deogracias Acosta and Roger Malalay who were near the store when the robbery occurred.

The four will join more than 1,000 convicts now languishing on Death Row.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the other day that 17 death convicts were scheduled for execution this year.

All 17 death convicts would be put to death anytime between April and September as their sentences had become final and executory, said Perez.

The SC affirmed the lower court's ruling on the four after it found that they had indeed conspired to commit the special complex crime of robbery with homicide.

The high tribunal stressed that the crime of robbery was committed by a band. Under the law, robbery is deemed committed by a band if more than three of the robbers carried firearms.

"Witnesses testified that three of the accused carried long firearms while the fourth accused carried a short firearm," the SC said.

The high court ordered the four to return the stolen P1,500 in cash, pay for the goods they seized from the store and pay P10,000 as exemplary damages to store owners Charlie and Marilyn Pajarillo.

The SC also awarded a total of P913,902 in damages to the victims' heirs for death indemnity, actual damages, funeral and burial expenses, exemplary damages, among others.

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DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 7, 2002
2nd Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 2:42-47**

The brothers were faithful to the teaching of the apostles, the common life of sharing, the breaking of bread and the prayers.

A holy fear came upon all the people, for many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. Now all the believers lived together and shared all their belongings. They would sell their property and all they had and distribute the proceeds to others according to their need. Each day they met together in the Temple area; they broke bread in their homes; they shared their food with great joy and simplicity of heart; they praised God and won the people's favor. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

2nd Reading: **1 P 1:3-9**

Let us praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for his great mercy. In raising Jesus Christ from the dead he has given us new life and a living hope. The inheritance which does not corrupt nor goes bad nor passes away was reserved to you in heavens, since God's power shall keep you faithful until salvation is revealed in the last days.

There is cause for joy, then, even though you may, for a time, have to suffer many trials. Thus will your faith be tested, like gold in a furnace. Gold, however, passes away but faith, worth so much more, will bring you in the end praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ appears.

You have not yet seen him and yet you love him; even without seeing him, you believe in him and experience a heavenly joy beyond all words, for you are reaching the goal of your faith: the salvation of your souls.

Gospel: **Jn 20:19-31**

On the evening of that day, the first day after the sabbath, the doors were locked where the disciples were, because of their fear of the Jews, but Jesus came and stood in their midst. He said to them, "Peace be with you"; then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples kept looking at the Lord and were full of joy.

Again Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." After saying this he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; for those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

Thomas, the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he replied, "Until I have seen in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, the disciples were inside again and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors Jesus came and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands; stretch out your hand and put it into my side. Resist no longer and be a believer."

Thomas then said, "You are my Lord and my God." Jesus replied, "You believe because you see me, don't you? Happy are those who have not seen and believe."

There were many other signs that Jesus gave in the presence of his disciples, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; believe and you will have life through his Name.

Commentary

"In raising Jesus Christ from the dead, God has given us new life and the hope of sharing life beyond death." (2nd reading) We yearn to believe in life eternal. Hope in a new dawn after our personal sunset is a cause of joy, wisdom and serenity. Growing old is then a matter for excitement rather than fear, like going a little higher up the mountain and seeing the distant horizon. Would you like to live forever in this world? In the end we would tire of it, for this is not what we are made for. This life matters immensely. But it remains a journey, not a destination. Today's readings are a meditation on faith in eternal life. At times we struggle to sustain this faith; it seem too good to be true. Use Thomas' prayer. It is powerful. Faith comes to us as we pray it.

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Anti-kidnap czar gives 'good news, bad news'

By TJ Burgonio

THE CHIEF of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) has confirmed what most everyone already knows—military and police personnel are involved in the lucrative kidnap-for-ransom "trade."

But Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Naktaf chief, looked on the bright side as he reported that the number of kidnapping incidents in the first quarter of the year dropped by over 20 percent.

Speaking at a forum on crime reporting, Ebdane said there were 20 kidnapping cases reported from January to March this year, down from 26 in the same period last year.

He attributed the drop in abductions to the growing awareness of targeted victims on ways to outwit kidnappers, like the nanny in Makati who had the presence of mind to jump out of their abductors' car with her ward in heavy traffic and escape.

The incident "showed that when people are informed, kidnappers will have fewer chances of success," Ebdane said.

On the uniformed personnel involved in kidnapping, Ebdane said Naktaf has arrested at least 15 active and dismissed members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police involved in kidnapping for ransom.

"There are still some (scalawags free) but we can count them with our fingers. They are now being investigated," Ebdane said, declining to identify them or the syndicates they belong to.

Several months ago, summary dismissal proceedings were initiated against Senior Supt. Willie Dangane, operations officer of the defunct anti-kidnapping Task Force Pentagon, for allegedly "protecting" members of the Pentagon kidnap based in Mindanao that he was supposed to neutralize.

Dangane has denied the charges against him.

Of the 20 kidnapping cases reported this year, nine have been solved (meaning the suspects have been arrested and charged in court), while three are "live cases" (the victims have not been rescued or released), including a Korean national.

Kidnapping, however, remain an illicit multimillion-peso trade. Sources said a total of P18.9 million in ransom was paid by the victims' families during the January-March period. The figure was 20 percent lower than last year's P24.2 million in ransom paid.

During the forum, Ebdane complained about the proclivity of some newspapers to report "live kidnapping cases," thereby jeopardizing Naktaf operations to rescue the victims.

Maganto says 'grudge' behind raps

POLICE Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto said yesterday the initiation of summary dismissal proceedings against him for alleged misconduct was part of a grand scheme to tarnish his reputation.

Maganto accused Director Lucas Managuelod of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM) of issuing the recommendation for dismissal proceedings "out of a personal grudge."

"He has an axe to grind against me because we differed on some issues in the past," Maganto said in a statement, recalling that they had clashed over the perceived bias against police officers who were not Philippine Military Academy graduates.

Maganto said he would file criminal and administrative charges against Managuelod.

Managuelod refused to comment on Maganto's statement.

It was Managuelod's deputy, Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, who had recommended that summary dismissal proceedings be initiated against Maganto.

Maganto, who has been on floating status since January 2001, was alleged to have threatened and harassed a Chinese national suspected of involvement in a kidnapping case.

Maganto was alleged to have gone to the Bureau of Immigration detention center in Taguig and taken pictures of suspect Xu Shao Feng, slapped him in the hand, pushed him against a wall and threatened to have him deported unless he revealed the whereabouts of the missing wife and son of Chinese trader Nong Kong Sze.

Maganto said Nong had asked him to help find his family. *TJ Burgonio*

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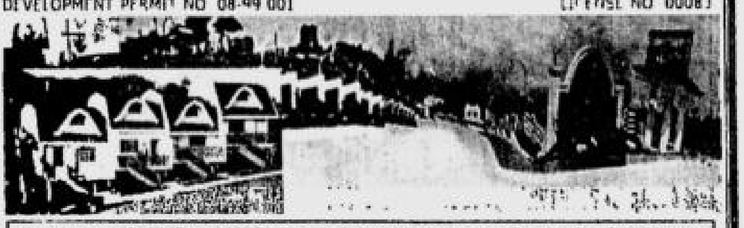

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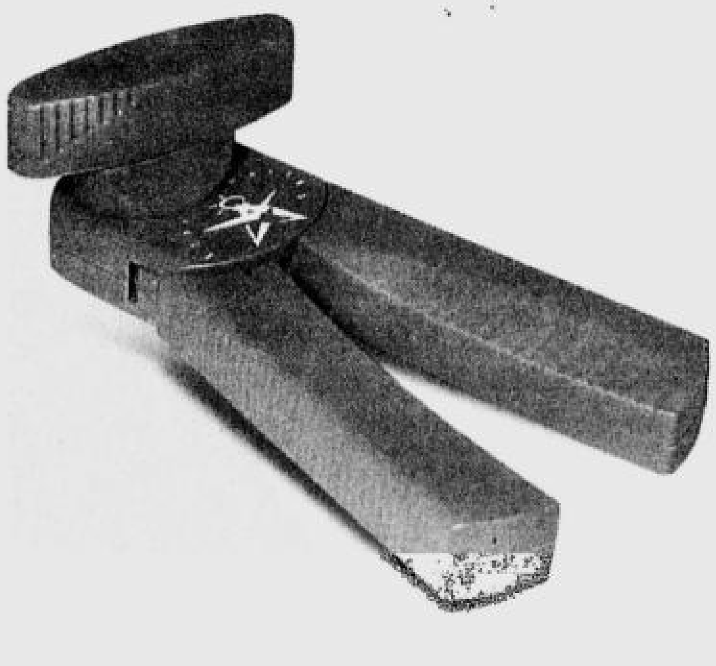

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INQUIRER

*Vol. 16 No. 118
ISSN
0116-2642*

OPINION

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
▪ Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
▪ P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
▪ Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
▪ Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 ▪ Advertising 897-4807
▪ Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
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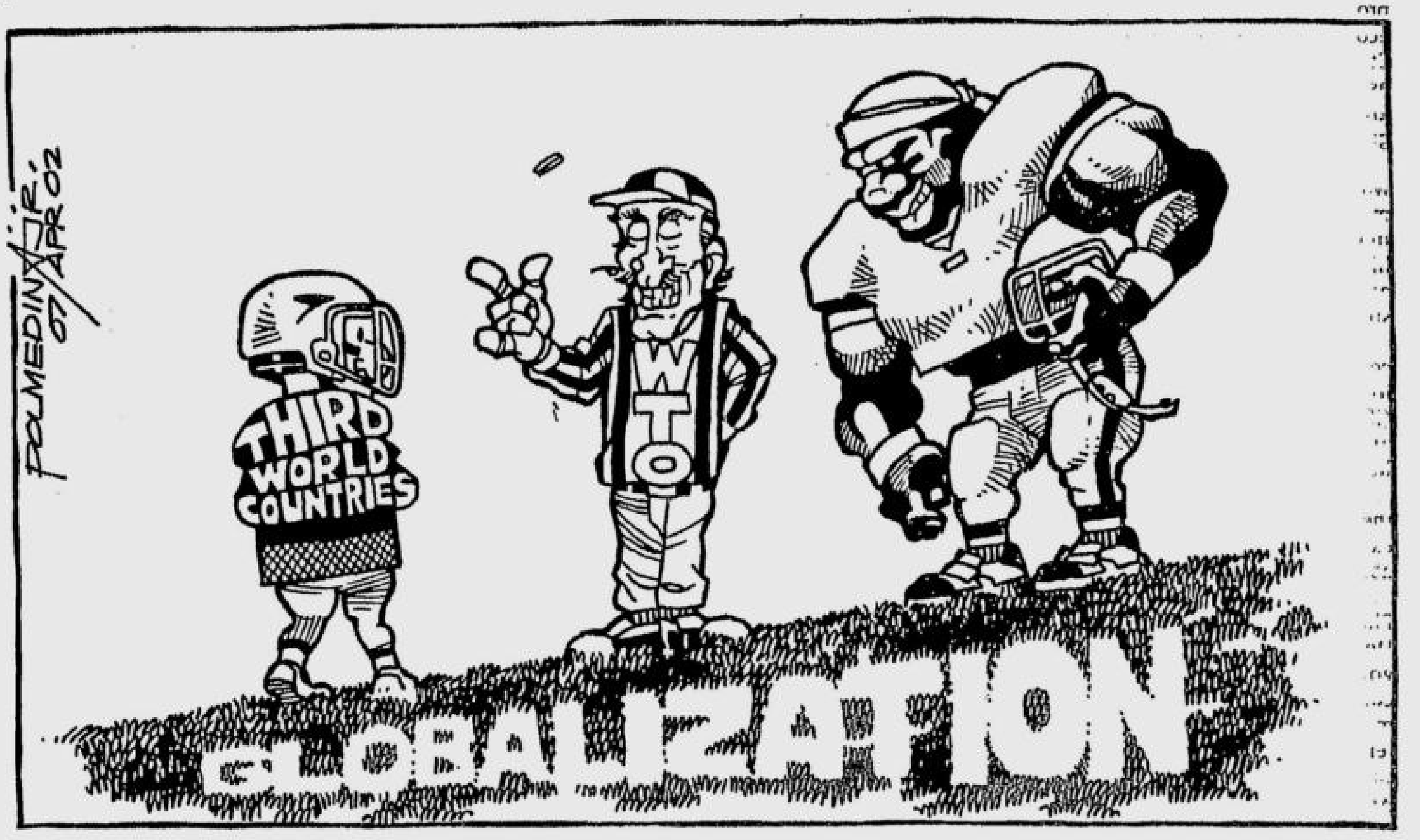

Fair trade

EDITORIAL

SHOULD the Philippines remain a member of the World Trade Organization?

If the fate of our canned tuna exports to Europe is any indication, the answer seems obvious. Last November, in Qatar, at the start of the so-called Doha round of trade negotiations, the Philippines got the wrong end of the long stick of globalization. Our canned tuna exports to the lucrative European Union market were assessed a 24-percent tariff, in marked contrast to those of the so-called African Caribbean Pacific countries, which were allowed to enter with no tariff at all.

The 15-nation European Union is the largest combined market for tuna exports in the world, consuming about half of the total. Despite its size, it has the character of a young market, growing at a consistent and robust 7 percent annually. It is easy to understand, therefore, why the country's tuna canners and the government see the discrepancy in tariff rates as nothing less than a betrayal of free and fair trade.

The zero-duty scheme was designed, in part, to help the developing economies of the so-called ACP countries. But in giving these former European colonies a leg up, the European Union has, perhaps inadvertently, pushed the Philippines a few rungs down the increasingly crowded ladder of competition. The country is the world's second biggest tuna exporter, after Thailand. But this is not to say that, in the tuna export category, the Philippines enjoys developed-economy status. At its peak, the value of the country's tuna exports reached only about $200 million—still a small business by US or European standards.

Europe accounts for 15 percent of this modest total. At a time of a global slowdown in tuna exports, and in a trading regime where the United States feels justified in imposing a 35-percent tariff on the product, the decision to levy a high tariff on Philippine tuna and none at all on those from the ACP tests our faith in the very promises of the WTO. At the beginning of the Doha conference, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II did not mince words. "While the Philippines subscribes to the theory that liberalized trade has the potential of benefiting those engaged in it, our experience since our implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements shows that there is a wide gap between promise and reality."

The 24-percent assessment was a double disappointment. It came during the first session of what was supposed to be a "development round," meaning a cycle of trade negotiations meant precisely to help developing economies cope more adequately with both the risks and rewards of globalization. And it came about after the influential Cairns Group, an agricultural lobby group which includes Australia and Canada and of which the Philippines is a charter member, conspicuously failed to support the Philippine bid for ACP-like treatment of its tuna exports.

Only Thailand, the country's perennial ally in international negotiations, supported the bid. The issue is currently under negotiation, and the country and the European Union have until April 30 to reach an agreement.

Since the Doha conference, Roxas has more than once dared to suggest in public that perhaps the country may be better off outside the WTO rather than inside it. "They preach one thing, they practice another thing," he told reporters in Davao. The sometimes stark contrast between preaching and practice has prompted two former Cabinet secretaries, Roberto Romulo and Rizalino Navarro, to call for a rethinking of the country's participation in the WTO. They even use identical language: the uproar is not "surprising" because "the globalization process" has both "winners and losers." But Romulo and Navarro think it is sheer folly to even think of leaving the WTO. "We need to stay in the game," Romulo writes, succinctly. "Standing outside and watching others write the rules will gain us nothing."

To be sure, the very nature of international trade has changed. It may be too late for the Philippines, or any other economy, to go it alone, to play outside the WTO sandbox. What the Philippines needs to do, now and in the medium term, is to strengthen its alliances with other developing economies, to align its interests with the other small players. As in any other playground, banding together is sometimes the only way to stand up to the occasional bully.

Arrogance from the skies

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

LAST January I reported that we in Merville, Parañaque City, were at last glimpsing a glimmer of hope for the solution of our problem with the noise and air pollution caused by the commercial airplanes flying directly over our community.

This was because, two days after I wrote in this column last July about this imposition, Sen. Loren Legarda arranged a luncheon conference with Air Transportation Office Head Adelberto Yap and me, with her as mediator. After our cordial and comprehensive discussion, Yap promised to take steps to address our complaints.

On Aug. 13, 2001, Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita, our new congressman for Parañaque City, filed a resolution calling for a legislative investigation of "the complaints of the residents near the airport against the noise pollution caused by the arriving and departing airplanes." There is as yet no news about that resolution although it is at least already "in the works."

Early this year, I received a letter from Sen. Joker Arroyo informing me that the committee on public services, which he chairs, had conducted a hearing where the ATO head promised to take the necessary measures to alleviate our difficulties. Attached was a report from Yap about the steps his office was taking for the benefit of the villages affected by the intrusive airplanes.

Senator Arroyo also enclosed a copy of a bill filed by Sen. Manuel Villar seeking to provide "for aviation noise management and reduction in residential areas" to insure "the constitutionally protected right of quiet enjoyment of private property."

With all these assurances, we in Merville felt that the end of our ordeal from the abusive airplanes was in sight at last. It appears, however, that I might have spoken too soon because our problem is still unresolved and still festering.

The arrogant airplanes still fly as free as birds over our community without so much as a by-your-leave and, worse, with the permission of the ATO. These airplanes are like vultures waiting to pounce on us once we are totally defeated, with the administration doing absolutely nothing except to give airy promises from Yap.

In his report to Senator Arroyo, the ATO chief mentioned several measures he was taking for our protection, including the limitation of the airplane flights to certain hours in the daytime. He specifically cited the agreement with "Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific reducing the 'time window' for Runway take-offs from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. to 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Air Philippines will reduce to 4 take-offs (B 737) Runway 13 within the 11 a.m.-3 p.m. time window. Six DC-9 of the Cebu Pacific will take-off Runway 13 within the same four-hour window."

Either Yap is talking of another planet or he is just not enforcing those agreements. The planes of these airlines roar over us as early as 5 a.m. and continue disturbing us even after 3 p.m. in clear violation of the agreed schedules, and not without Yap's knowledge. In between, the children are disturbed in school and the adults while working or enjoying their right of repose. This can be confirmed by any Merville resident who has not yet turned deaf because of the airplane noise.

It would appear that the ATO head is pulling the wool over the eyes of Senators Legarda, Arroyo, Villar and Representative Zialcita, all of whom we believe to be sincerely trying their best to help us out of our difficulties. I hereby inform them that, despite their efforts, we are still immovably in square one, and the airlines continue to do as they please with the tolerance of the ATO.

Yap is apparently more inclined to favor these companies for reasons that reveal his indifference to our plight. The complaints of the little people like us are clearly no match for the powerful influence of the prosperous Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific. Otherwise, why has the ATO systematically ignored all our protests against the proven prejudice these airlines have been causing to our health and repose?

It is not as if there were no remedies to relieve us from the problems spawned by the arrogant airplanes. The more obvious are the rerouting of the flights, the earlier retrofit of "hush kits," and the acquisition of modern less noisy aircraft. The airlines have objected because these will entail more expenses (and reduce their profits). The ATO has benignly sustained them in the pious interest of economic progress and private enterprise.

Other countries are more considerate of the people's welfare, which is their principal concern. The Philippines is different. Our government considers business profits and stock dividends more important than the people's right to a wholesome and healthy environment.

I have been receiving letters not only from Merville but also other communities also stifling from the oppression of the airlines the ATO is coddling. In a later article, I shall discuss some of the suggestions sent in by readers from Cubic Homes, Moonwalk Village and even Las Piñas. Our companions in misery are increasing in number and suffering, but the ATO couldn't care less.

A letter writer says that Yap reportedly declared, "I believe the residents of Merville should have thought twice to even build houses there." If this is true, that stupid remark could be the best reason why retired generals should not be employed in civil positions to militarize our government. Yap must think he is still dealing with his enlisted men.

Who's afraid?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

I WORKED in South Korea for four years as a missionary, and one of the first things my fellow missionary, Fr. Ric Dumas, SVD and I had to do was to learn the difficult Korean language. The most common greeting of the Koreans is "*Annyong haseyo?*" The first time I heard someone greet me "*Annyong haseyo,*" I responded, "*Ewan ko sa yo!*" Little did I know then how beautiful this greeting was. It literally means "Are you at peace?"

* * *

The first greeting of the Risen Christ to his fearful disciples was the beautiful greeting "Peace be with you" (Jn. 20, 19-21) The disciples were so afraid that they kept their doors locked. They were identified with Jesus of Nazareth, and they were afraid that they too might be picked up for questioning anytime. In other words, they were afraid of death.

But, there was another fear in each one of them. They were afraid of life. Why? Because they all abandoned and denied Jesus in His darkest hour and here He was alive! Knowing their hearts, knowing their fears, all that Christ said was "Peace be with you" and the disciples knew they were not alone, they were understood and they were forgiven.

Afraid? Guilty? Listen to the Lord telling you now, "Peace be with you."

* * *

By the way, the name "Jesus" refers more to the historical person, Jesus from Nazareth. The name "Christ" is used to refer to the Risen Lord Jesus after the Resurrection. Whichever name we use, all we are saying is that Jesus Christ is a wonderful person and a wonderful God. What a man! What a God!

* * *

What a man, and what a guy, too, this Rico Yan was! Here was a young man of 27 years who lived a beautiful life and had a beautiful death. He was not afraid to live life and to live it fully. He lived the gospel of joy and generosity and thus, touched the hearts of so many people. He was not afraid to give. He showed us that it is possible to be rich and famous and yet be humble and generous.

He also died a beautiful death in the sense that he made us all realize how short and fragile life is, and that therefore we all should live a life that is full, beautiful, meaning-full, love-full and God-full. His not waking up in the morning of March 29 is a reminder to all of us that the greatest blessing we have today is that we still woke up this morning!

Did you thank God that you still woke up and are still alive this morning? Kneel down, just kneel down and thank God you are still alive. All your plans, all your schedules, all your achievements would have come to nothing if you did not wake up this morning!

* * *

From the humanistic point of view, Rico lived a beautiful life. But what makes his life more beautiful and meaningful is the Resurrection and the gift of eternal life. For indeed, what is time without love, and what is love without time? If there was no Resurrection, Rico's life was a big *sayang* because he was so good, and he died so young. Because of the Resurrection, we believe that he did not live in vain, and he definitely did not die in vain.

* * *

The Rico Yan phenomenon is an indicator that we are searching for heroes and role models in life. Rico was like an oasis that brought a shade, a relief to our dry and withered souls. From time to time, God raises up prophets in our midst to point the way and lead us on. We need more Rico Yans in our country to remind us that it is possible to make a difference and that moving on is doable in this country.

You and I do not have to be a Rico Yan to make a difference. Let us all just be ourselves and let us all just do our best and a new dawn will break through, in our country soon. ***Tiyak 'yan!***

* * *

Someone said that if on earth, it is always Hello and then Goodbye, then Heaven is the Eternal Hello—no more goodbyes. Yes, we will meet Rico and our departed relatives and friends again after moments or a lifetime in that kingdom where "every tear will be wiped away," where there are no more problems, no more sorrows, no more goodbyes. Thank God for the Resurrection, thank God there is a Resurrection.

* * *

Some people live, and they just live. Some people die, and they just die. Some people live, and make others live. Some people die, and still make others live. Here's wishing all of us will live meaningful and grateful lives so that this world would be a little bit better and brighter because we passed by.

And here's wishing to see you all in heaven. Yes, see you there! (And not somewhere else! And not so soon, okay? All, in His time.)

* * *

Some quotations to ponder:

"If through one person, a little more love, a little more goodness, a little more hope has come into the world, then that person's life has had meaning."

"Live in such a way that when you die or when your last moments come, you will have no regrets that you loved too little."

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, I'm not afraid to live, I'm not afraid to die because you're the Resurrection. Amen.

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Turning migration's 'weakest links' into assets

COMMENTARY

Jeremaiah M. Opiniano
Institute on Church and Social Issues

LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said recently that the country's overseas employment program will now give priority to programs on the economic and social reintegration of migrants. Sto. Tomas vowed to make reintegration, known as the "weakest link" in the government's programs for migrant workers, a primary function of government agencies.

Reintegration is the process of a migrant worker's return to the country of origin, which must be planned as early as before he migrates. In preparation for a migrant's eventual return to his country, the migrant needs to have financial and social capital so that he doesn't have to struggle to make a living when he returns.

The reintegration challenge is so immense for countries that export labor, and the possibilities for the smooth return of migrants here are bleak (if a 2001 report of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in Asia-Pacific is to be believed). It is because either returning migrants suffer longer unemployment after their return or their savings from their overseas work are soon exhausted, forcing them to leave again to work abroad.

For this reason, the stakeholders involved in Philippine migration are left guessing. To quote De La Salle University professor Stella Go, government's biggest challenge today (while it continues to manage labor export flows) is to maximize the economic benefits derived from international labor migration while minimizing the social costs that these exact on the individual worker, family and society.

This is why alternatives to migration should be considered. To identify what these are, how will these work out and how these will benefit both the returning migrants and the country as a whole, will be the subject of two significant gatherings this April.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and the NGOs, Atikha Inc., Balikbayani Foundation, the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Migrants and Itinerant People, and the Unlad Kabayan Migrant Services Foundation, will organize the first National Conference on OFW Reintegration this April 12 to 13 in Manila. Through the conference, participating stakeholders (including civil society groups) will be part of a crusade to draft an integrated and comprehensive economic and social reintegration approach for the country's returning migrants.

At about the same time, the International Conference on Identifying Economic Linkages Between Overseas Filipinos and Rural Communities in the Philippines will be held. The international meet, organized by the Switzerland-based NGO, Economic Resource Center for Overseas Filipinos (Ercof), and the Mindanao Land Foundation (MLF), is scheduled from April 10 to 12 in Davao City. The activity will gather Philippine and international migration and development experts in a frank and meaningful discussion on effective strategies and practices for the economic empowerment of overseas Filipinos and their families.

Despite the fact that the reintegration challenge is immense, the two fora hope to transform these problems into opportunities for the migrants and the families they leave behind. Best practices of how migrants and their families empower themselves will be featured.

The two activities also hope to bring in fresh ideas on how remittances can be maximized for local development. In the Ercof-MLF conference, there will be sessions featuring how migrants in the receiving countries bond themselves and allot their earnings for the development of their rural communities (in what some scholars call transnational philanthropy). At the OWWA conference, examples of migrants-run social enterprises in the local communities will also be explored.

But more importantly, for a country that has relied heavily on overseas employment to supplement scarce domestic jobs and augment the country's foreign reserves, the two activities hope to provide incisive and relevant discussions on how migration can be maximized for social development. The activities feature approaches such as cooperative building, micro-enterprise development, self-help movements of migrants and their families, the work of community-based financial institutions and development cooperation between the migrants outside and the families here. For the social aspect of reintegration, prospective approaches include the therapeutic approaches of NGOs, community-building and even social capital (or the trust, mutuality and reciprocity of people and institutions to work for a cause).

The two activities hope to provide answers as to how we can productively use the over $6 billion in annual remittances, and the ties between migrants outside and the migrant communities here, to our advantage. The two events offer exciting areas for action research, for social development work and for the empowerment of our migrant workers.

We hope that these activities and the their reflections and analyses will resolve a myth that surrounds the development potential of return migration. Even while returning migrants face problems, *balikbayans* can transform these costs into resources for their own benefit and society's—provided they are given correct information, strategic interventions and mechanisms for empowerment by the different stakeholders.

Spectators in their lives

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SOMETHING Rico Yan's mother said at his funeral Mass resonated with me and my "occupation" as a mother.

"While I was very close to my son," said Cita Castro Yan, "I now realize that there was so much about him that I didn't know." From stories told her by her son's friends, fans and associates, said Ms Yan, she found out that he had touched so many lives in so many ways, ways unknown to her and indeed had come as a complete surprise to her.

As a mother of a young adult and a teenager, I could empathize. We don't know exactly when it happens, but the time does come when we parents cease being the center of our children's lives. More and more, we are shunted to the periphery of their existence. Where, as children, their first thoughts upon waking were most likely where we were and if we hadn't absconded and abandoned them the night before, as they reach their teens and adulthood, we might come to mind perhaps once a week at best, and only then in connection with delayed allowances or the taste of our home-cooked meals (tough luck for me on this score!).

When do we turn into mere spectators in our adult children's lives? No matter how old they are, even when they up and get married and start families of their own, our children remain somehow our responsibility. No longer as dependent on us, maybe, but still cause for worry and concern. But for their part, leaving behind the "things of the child" entails abandoning as well emotional and psychological—not to mention physical and financial—dependence on us their parents.

* * *

HOW do you judge a good parent? A good parent is one who succeeds in rearing a mature, responsible and independent adult. Parenting, it is said, is the only job where success is measured by how much you're no longer needed toward the end. Being "left behind" by our children is a goal we prepare for from the moment they are born.

A friend recently surprised our e-mail group by a little essay he wrote about his year-old daughter's transition from crawling to walking. "She'll never crawl again," he said when we teased him later about his touchy-feely reflection. I didn't have the heart to tell him that from walking, our children graduate soon enough to running, then driving and before you know it, they're sauntering out the door of the family home. That's when we become spectators in their lives. Interested, involved spectators, true, but no longer central players or even supporting cast.

I would hate to find out someday that I have become the sort of mother whom a daughter writes about in her diaries (à la Bridget Jones), or who, even in memory, continually comes between a son and his wife. I think parents who still squat in a major portion of their children's consciousness long after these children have reached adulthood have essentially failed as parents. Our job is to make ourselves more and more irrelevant as our children get older. It ain't no fun being blamed for neuroses or personality quirks long after we've retired from active parenting.

So for Cita Yan to find out that her 27-year-old son had so many compartments in his life but shared the contents of only a few with her—that is not failure or weakness as a mother. It is proof that she reared him well.

* * *

IMAGINE observing a Filipino Christmas without singing "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit." The song has become such a big part of the national patrimony that it's hard to imagine someone actually sitting down and penning the lyrics and melody.

Well, actually, in the case of Levi Celerio and "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit," what he did was to translate the original Visayan lyrics into Tagalog. But as CCP chair Bal Endriga, who grew up in a Visayan household, tells me, Celerio's lyrics were so much better and more meaningful that they became the song that most Filipinos, even Visayans, sing at Christmas.

There must be some meaning in the awful confluence of the deaths, days apart, of National Artists for Music Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio. The two had even collaborated on some songs, and both had lived so long that in their last years many of their countryfolk paid them the dubious compliment of believing that their songs had been written by artists long dead.

After receiving reports that Celerio, then in his 90s, had been reduced to hanging around restaurants to entertain diners, CCP officials, said Endriga, began planning a concert as a tribute to the National Artist, with the proceeds to go to him as security in his old age. But as usual family politics got in the way, with his children (from three relationships) squabbling over the right to represent their father in the negotiations. "We kept moving the date of the concert, until Levi's death overtook us," said Endriga, shaking his head sadly.

* * *

BUT if the country failed to reward them in life commensurately with the stature and achievements of their talent, the government will do what it can to honor them in death, in ceremonies befitting National Artists.

Both San Pedro and Celerio will be honored with grand necrological rites at the CCP Main Theater before being brought to their final rest. As National Artists, they're entitled to burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, which is where Celerio's remains will be interred. San Pedro, a proud and loving son of Angono to the end, had left strict instructions to his family that his remains be buried in Angono, beside those of another proud son of Angono, the artist Botong Francisco.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

A new norm in international relations

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has sent an army of more than 3,000 soldiers and 200 tanks and bulldozers into the Palestinian towns of Nablus, Bethlehem and Ramallah. Israeli forces cordoned off these areas, cut off the electricity and blocked all food supply to their inhabitants.

The aim is to get rid of Yasser Arafat as president of the Palestinian nation. Arafat, now trapped in his headquarters in Ramallah, is being blamed for the wave of suicide bombers that have killed scores of Israeli civilians in the past few days. These human bombs walk into the most crowded public places and detonate themselves at will. Their actions, heroic in the eyes of the Palestinians but terroristic in the eyes of the Israelis, call to mind the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Israel wants the world to view its action as an integral part of the defensive war against global terrorism. It invokes the same Bush doctrine that rationalizes the American invasion of Afghanistan as an act of self-defense. According to this doctrine ("Either you are with us or you are against us"), any nation that does not take action against terrorists seeking refuge in their territory renders itself open to attack.

It does not matter that Arafat has condemned every act of atrocity committed by these suicide bombers and has called for a cessation of hostilities at every turn. It does not matter that the extremist group Hamas, which has opposed Arafat's leadership from the start, has claimed responsibility for these attacks. Israel claims that Arafat himself is a terrorist, and is the sponsor of the suicide missions.

The Israelis have cast Arafat and the Palestinian Authority in the role of the Taliban. They must be destroyed before Israel can co-exist peacefully with Palestine.

This is the same line that the Bush administration used in Afghanistan, and it is also the same one it is using as it prepares to invade Iraq. Stripped of rhetoric, what the line comes down to is this: "We will choose your leaders for you, and then we will leave you in peace." This is the story of Afghanistan.

It is a new disturbing norm in relations among nations. And it is shocking that the rest of the world seems to accept it without question. For until recently, it was taken for granted that nations have the inviolable right to self-determination: the right to choose their own social system and their own leaders. No nation, no matter how big or powerful, could intervene in the internal affairs of another. It is the only way that the peoples of this planet, subscribing to different ideologies and responding to the imperatives of varying cultures, can live in peace with one another.

We may not like the Taliban—the way they oppress their women and other religions—and the Afghan people may not have freely chosen their leadership, but it was the government of the Afghan nation. We may not like Saddam Hussein—the way he treats Kuwait as a province of Iraq or develops bio-chemical weapons—but he is the president of an independent country. No nation, not even the mighty United States, should have the right to meddle in their internal affairs. This is a guarantee they enjoy once they become members of the community of nations.

Finally bowing to a recent UN Security Council resolution, President Bush has called on Israel to withdraw its forces out of Palestinian areas. But Bush cannot expect Sharon to listen to him while he himself is busy courting Arab countries to support a US campaign to take out Hussein. Sharon has vowed to get Arafat's head and to dismantle the "infrastructure of terrorism," and only then will he withdraw his forces.

By the standards of the American retaliatory record after Sept. 11, Sharon's behavior no longer sounds outrageous. This is a most dangerous development in international relations.

The war against terrorism has become a blanket justification for preemptive strikes against perceived enemies, while the United States has become the sole judge of who is a terrorist and who is not. More and more, the United Nations has shown an inability to enforce its resolutions, and no other country or group of countries is strong enough to stop America or any nation that plays the bully. America has killed multilateralism, yet the world has become too complex for a lone superpower to govern.

It is obvious from the conflicting signals it has sent on the Israel-Palestine crisis that America has no strategic vision for peace in the Middle East. It watched the peace process break down and failed to take any initiative to bring Arafat and Sharon back to the negotiating table. But more important, its perspective on the Arab world became so colored by its paranoia about Iraq and al-Qaida that it did not see the tension perilously building up in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestinian quest for the lands seized by the Israelis in the 1967 war has continued in the last 35 years. Palestinians have fought with all the weapons at their disposal—stones, slingshots, guns and now suicide bombers. It has been a one-sided war. "Our only weapons against Sharon are our blood and our bodies," Newsweek quotes the relative of an 18-year-old female student who exploded herself in a market in Jerusalem. It is surely simplistic and unjust to describe this development in the Palestinian struggle by the limited vocabulary of counter-terrorism.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Court upholds press freedom once more

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

PRESS freedom in the country got a comforting reassurance from a recent decision of the Court of Appeals on the libel complaint filed by socialite (and former Tarlac governor) Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco against INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila.

On Nov. 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1987, the Manila Chronicle (now defunct), with Doronila as editor in chief, published several articles that mentioned Cojuangco, wife of then Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, younger brother of then President Corazon Aquino, as the recipient of a $1-million "deposit" from an Australian company that wanted to operate a gambling casino in the country. Three of the articles were written by Australian journalists who claimed to have gathered the information from reliable sources. The rest were written by Chronicle reporters.

Cojuangco strongly denied the reported pay-off. Her denial was published together with the articles. But that did not stop her from filing libel charges against Doronila, one of the Australian reporters and four other members of the Chronicle staff.

After seven years, the regional trial court found Doronila guilty of libel and ordered his imprisonment for one year and eight months and payment of a P3,000 fine. He and the Chronicle were also directed to pay over P1 million in damages to Cojuangco.

The other defendants were acquitted for insufficiency of evidence.

Reversed

The conviction was, however, reversed by the Court of Appeals. It ruled that the prosecution did not satisfactorily prove one of the elements of libel: malice.

Justices Bienvenido Reyes, Roberto Barros and Rebecca de Guia-Salvador declared that Doronila was not motivated by malice when he approved the publication of the articles.

They believed his explanation that he did it out of an honest sense of duty to the readers. He wanted to help President Aquino stamp out graft and corruption in the government by bringing to her attention and to the public the alleged involvement of her sister-in-law in an anomalous transaction, as reported by reputable Australian journalists.

According to the court, if Doronila was motivated by ill-will against Cojuangco he would not have published her side on the alleged pay-off together with the articles that were the subject of the libel suit.

The Court of Appeals further noted that at the time of the publication of the articles "the temperament, mood and spirit of the Filipino people were very high toward the realization and fulfillment of their long standing struggle from the bondage of media restraints and the desire to suppress the evils of graft and corruption brought about by the Martial Law regime."

Since Doronila acted in good faith in the publication of the articles or out of a sense of social duty, the court ruled that no criminal liability could be imputed to him even if the articles may have adversely affected Cojuangco's honor and reputation.

Public figure

Another interesting aspect of the court's decision was its finding that Cojuangco, although a private citizen, should be treated as a "public figure" whose acts, like those of public officials, are subject to scrutiny on matters of public or general concern.

Under ordinary circumstances, a private person can justifiably cry "foul" if the press writes something derogatory about his personal affairs, even if true. But that rule does not apply if the private person is a "public figure" or, in more familiar language, a celebrity.

A "public figure," according to an earlier decision of the Supreme Court, is a person who by his accomplishments, fame, mode of living or by adopting a profession or calling gives the public a legitimate interest in his doings, affairs and character. In other words, he is anyone who has arrived at a position where public attention is focused upon him as a person.

Applying this criterion to Cojuangco, the court noted that "she is the sister-in-law of the President of the Republic of the Philippines...and is the wife of Congressman Jose 'Peping' Cojuangco. On her own, Mrs. Cojuangco was very well known because she is a socialite and engaged in various civil and social activities."

Public figures, like public officials, should not be onion-skinned. They can be the proper subjects of criticism or discussion on anything they say or do as long as those statements or acts are related to matters of public interest.

The court concluded that being a "public figure," Cojuangco had no reason to complain if reports about her alleged involvement in an anomalous transaction were published by the Chronicle in line with its editor in chief's desire to help curb graft and corruption in the government.

Reminder

Although Doronila's acquittal took some time—seven years at the lower court and another seven years on appeal—the ruling of the appellate court serves as a timely reminder to public officials and public figures to exercise prudence in using the libel suit process as a means to assuage perceived hurts from the press.

Unless they are certain that the articles that allegedly defamed their honor or reputation were motivated by ill will or malice, they should take criticisms with an open mind. Any doubts about the motives behind a "defamatory" article should be resolved in the latter's favor.

Public officials must accept the fact that scrutiny of their official acts (and in some cases, their personal affairs when these may affect their official functions) comes with the territory. It is something they have to live with because the taxpayers have a right to know how the people whose salaries they are paying are doing their job.

The same admonition goes to public figures or anybody who enjoys seeing his face in the newspapers or being quoted in the media. If you get a high seeing your picture in the society pages or being asked to give your two cents' worth on the issues of the day, then be prepared to get brickbats or critical statements from people who may not like you or agree with your views.

Those who find this situation discomforting are advised to remember the popular political slogan, "If you cannot stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!"

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Please send feedback to opinion@inquirer.com.ph

TALK of the TOWN

Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

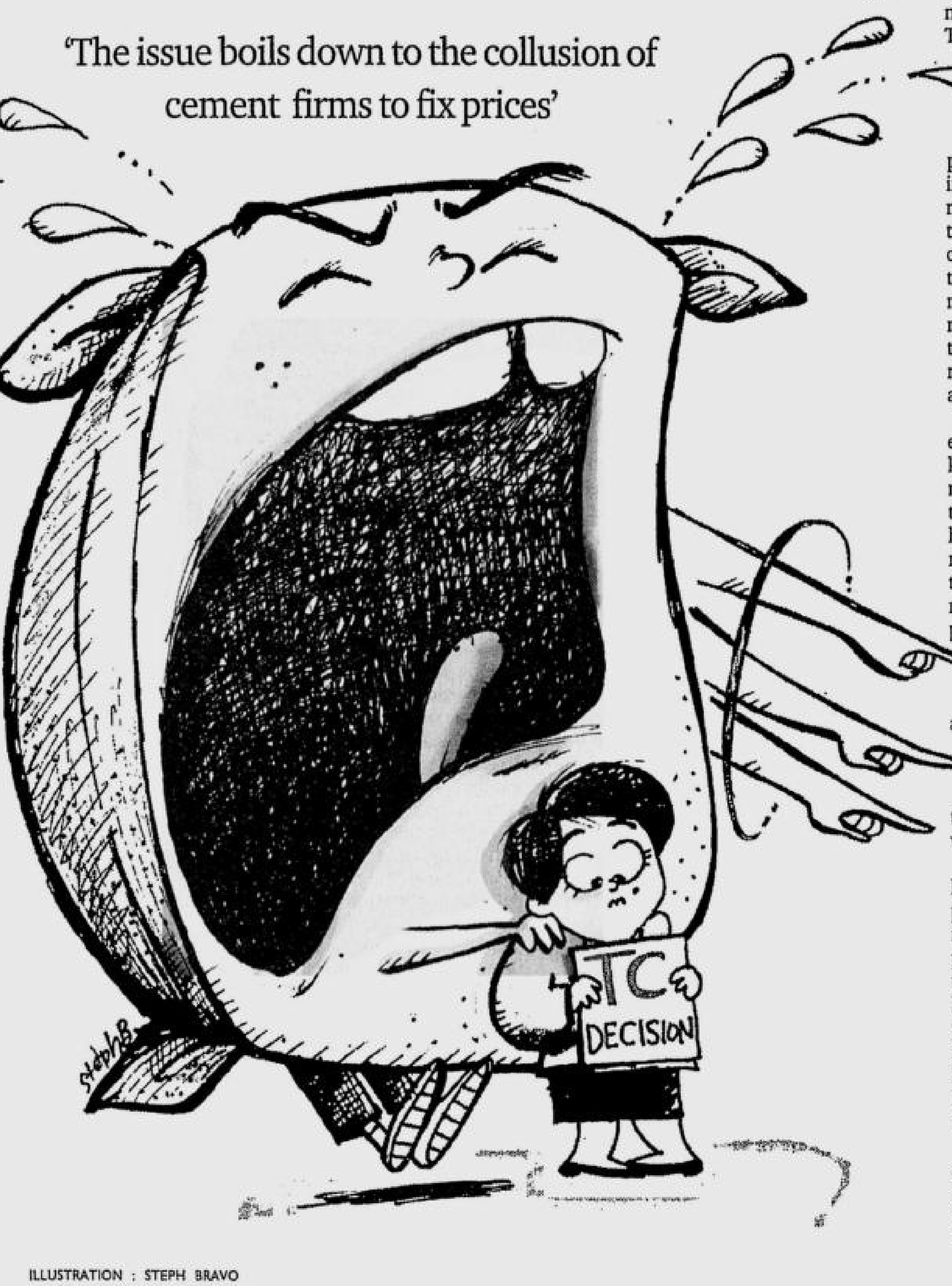
Is the DTI coddling a cement cartel?

CEMENT manufacturers in the country staged rallies and bought full-page newspaper ads to protest the Tariff Commission's recommendation to lift the P20.60-tariff on every bag of imported cement. The Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor), an organization representing local cement makers, claims that removing the tariff will hurt its members.

But the Tariff Commission has found that imported cement does not pose a threat of serious injury to local cement makers. It says that lifting the tariff will discourage the abuse of market power by the local cement makers and spare consumers increases in cement prices. Cement accounts for about 65 percent of the cost of low-cost homes. The Department of Trade and Industry disagrees with the Tariff Commission, saying that the surge of imported cement is injurious to the local cement makers. It insists on collecting the duty up to its full 200-day period, or until June 28. The DTI claims that consumers hardly benefit from imported cement as prices have been soaring since January 2000.

In an opinion, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez says Trade Secretary Mar Roxas should follow the Tariff Commission's recommendation. A group of economists is also coming to the defense of the Tariff Commission. "If the DTI finally decides against the Tariff Commission's recommendation, it will be a classic case of regulatory capture and weak governance," the group says. "The issue actually boils down to the collusion of cement firms to fix prices."

'The issue boils down to the collusion of cement firms to fix prices'



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'A classic case of sacrificing public welfare for sectoral interest'

By Economists Against a Cement Cartel

IN THE RECENTLY concluded hearing on the petition of the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor) for the imposition of safeguard measures against imports, the Tariff Commission completely reversed the earlier decision of the Department of Trade and Industry to provide an additional duty on cement imports.

The Commission's investigation yielded no sufficient evidence to prove that the domestic cement industry suffered serious injury from imports over the past five years. The Commission found that despite the decline in production after the 1997 Asian crisis, the market share of the domestic cement firms remained substantial at 87 percent of total consumption in 2000.

Production was reduced by 3 percent in 1999 and by 5 percent in 2000. Nevertheless, capacity utilization increased from 62 percent to 73 percent between 1999 and 2000 while revenues went up from P22.8 billion in 1999 to P29.3 billion in 2000 resulting in improved financial position for the industry.

Income from operations stood at P2.4 billion in 2000 and a return on sales of 8 percent was registered during the same year. On this basis, the Commission recommended against the granting of a 50-percent tariff and an import quota initially requested by Philcemcor.

Cement is an essential input to the construction industry, which is important for housing and other types of infrastructure. The construction industry alone directly employs about 1.584 million workers while the cement industry has less than 5,000 workers.

Price manipulation

For the past several years, consumers have wondered why prices of cement firms remained high despite the slack in demand. A study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies showed that this was basically due to the cartel existing in the industry. Manipulating cement prices is detrimental to the whole economy. Price fixing by the cement cartel results in certain costs being borne by other sectors. Hence, losses are incurred in the form of jobs in the construction sector, a school building in Bicol, a road in Leyte, a bridge in Samar, or a government low-cost housing project in Cavite. If the industry is protected, it will be a classic case of sacrificing public welfare for sectoral interest.

Protection will be ironic as the country's cement industry is dominated by the world's largest cement firms consisting of Holcim, Cemex, and LaFarge. Their behavior indicates that their strategy in the Philippines is to resist competition by colluding among themselves to fix prices and by invoking protection at all costs to ward off competition from imports.

Rather than using precious resources wisely by investing in productivity and efficiency enhancing measures, these multinational corporations spend on wasteful rent-seeking activities like lobbying for greater protection. The full-page ads in major newspapers and tabloids coming out almost daily will show you how much resources these firms are willing to spend to maintain the cartel.

The Tariff Commission must be lauded for coming up with a firm and transparent recommendation against protecting the cement cartel despite the tremendous lobby of the latter. In other countries where governance is strong, cartels and anti-competitive behavior are treated toughly. In the Philippines, the cement industry is able to escape prosecution given our lack of competition laws and policy and the absence of a strong and independent regulatory agency.

Cartel behavior is a criminal act punishable under Republic Act 7581 (Price Act). The DTI's decision to grant safeguards to the cement cartel based on its preliminary investigation has emboldened the industry to continue to lobby for protection and safeguards for a much longer period. It is fortunate that the Tariff Commission has found empirical evidence not to continue the safeguard measure. If the DTI finally decides against the Tariff Commission's recommendation, then it will be a classic case of regulatory capture and weak governance.

Smuggling

The issue actually boils down to the collusion of cement firms to fix prices. In the process, this will only cause cement prices to rise and increase incentives for smuggling. The obvious solution is to allow importation and for the DTI to be more circumspect in its decision. It must not succumb to the continued lobbying of the foreign-controlled cement industry, which tries to hide under the cloak of national interest.

This should bring to fore the necessity of having stronger competition laws and of establishing an independent competition body to accompany trade liberalization. The DTI and other concerned agencies like Neda and the Tariff Commission must plan out these possibilities to strengthen the government's hand in breaking cartels and monopolies as well as in promoting competition in the various industries to protect consumer interests.

(Among the signatories to the position paper are Cielito Habito, director, Center for Economic Research and Development and Economics Department, Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU); Raul Fabella, dean, UP School of Economics (UPSE); Michael Alba, dean, College of Business and Economics, De La Salle University (DLSU); Emilio Antonio, vice dean, School of Economics, University of Asia and the Pacific (UAP); Leonardo Lanzona, chair, Economics Department, AdMU; Winfred Villamil, chair, Economics Department, DLSU; Emmanuel Esguerra, director of research, UPSE; Men Sta. Ana, Action for Economic Reforms; Fernando Aldaba, Economics Department and School of Government, AdMU; Bruce Tolentino, School of Government, AdMU; Germelino Bautista, Economics Department, AdMU; and, Peter Lee U, Economics Department, UAP).

'Working for the benefit of consumers'

By Manuel A. Roxas II
Trade Secretary

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry received on March 14 a report of the Tariff Commission on the application for safeguard measures under RA 8800 filed by the local cement industry represented by Philcemcor.

In its report, the Tariff Commission found no merit to the claim of the local industry that it had suffered and continued to suffer serious injury from the surge of imported cement into the country from 2000 to September 2001.

The DTI disputes the conclusions of the Tariff Commission on the basis of an inappropriate framework and flawed methodology.

In principle, the DTI believes that under perfect market conditions, the so-called "free market solution" maximizes value for all. Thus, open and fair trade maximizes consumer welfare. The DTI remains committed to the policy of open and fair trade.

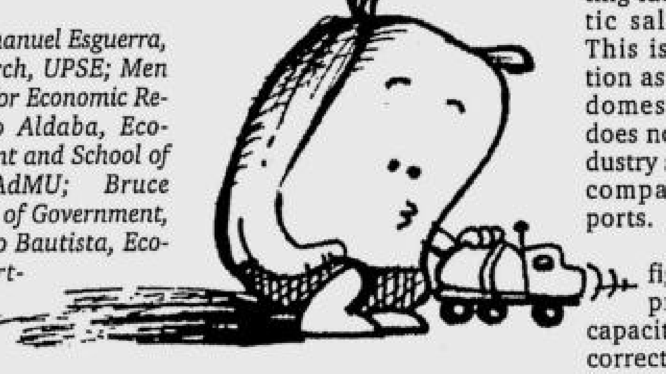
Managed solution

However, markets are not perfect—and where a market is imperfect, where there is a natural monopoly, or where an industry is in transition to meet the challenges of globalization, then the "free market solution" does not necessarily produce the best results for anyone, in particular, the consumer. Rather, government intervention or a "managed" solution is justified.

The market for cement is an example of an imperfect market. Due to the nature of cement—which has no substitutes, inelastic demand, and high transport and capital barriers to entry—as well as the external shock from the 1997 financial crisis, the promised price benefits for consumers from deregulating and liberalizing the entry of imports did not come about. On the contrary, cement prices continued to go up and only importers, in shadowing local prices rather than pressuring them downwards, enjoyed big profits.

Specifically, although tariffs have been at an average of 5 percent since 1993, the price of imported cement has been pegged at P5 to P10 lower than that of local cement; while landed prices were around P70 per bag, import prices increased from P103 in January 2000 to P140 in October 2001, trailing local cement prices which rose from P105 to P145.

In contrast, the provisional safeguard or managed solution imposed by the DTI in December 2001 lowered cement prices by 16 percent to P125-P135 per bag to the benefit of consumers, simultaneously providing revenue to the government.



Negative findings

Curiously, in defending their negative findings, the Tariff Commission continued to assert (despite evidence to the contrary) that consumers would be "spared the increase in domestic cement prices expected from the imposition of a safeguard measure."

The behavior of the cement market described above is consistent with economic theory. Academics recognize that in the case of the cement industry, "deregulation and trade liberalization, while necessary, are not sufficient to ensure that markets perform efficiently and that their outcomes are reasonably equitable."

Although potential competition from imports is important as a mechanism to control market power, "in the case of cement, however, this is of little practical value because of the substantial costs of entry" such as the need for bulk handling facilities and extra handling costs. The pro-competitive effects of imports on the industry are thus limited. *(Aldaba, 2001)*

In its report, the Tariff Commission confirmed the actions taken by the local cement industry by recognizing that investments made in 1996 to expand capacities to meet higher demand expectations were a logical decision at the time; likewise the option to contract dollar-denominated loans to finance their expansion. These capacity expansions required a gestation period of three to five years.

Decline

The Commission further acknowledged that the resulting decline in market share of the domestic industry from almost 99 percent in 1998 to 80 percent in 2001 could be considered *rapid, sharp* and *significant*, and that the price increases which started in 1999 were necessary to compensate for the loss in sales and market share.

Given this background, it is regrettable that the Tariff Commission failed to infer that the unforeseen financial crisis from 1997 to 1999, followed by a surge of imports, affected the industry's ability to exploit its investments, achieve the planned efficiencies that the modernized and expanded plants could have provided, and service its loans.

Moreover, the Tariff Commission did not consider that P6.4 billion in foregone domestic revenues experienced by the local industry, representing diminished sales in a shrinking domestic market, did not constitute serious injury.

Inconsistent

The conclusions of the Tariff Commission are inconsistent with its premises and are based on a flawed methodology. Specifically, the Tariff Commission incorrectly uses:

1. Export sales as an offsetting factor to declining domestic sales and market share. This is an incorrect calculation as injury is relative to the domestic market. Besides, it does not properly represent industry status as only 3 out of 17 companies engaged in exports.
2. Clinker production figures rather than cement production to determine capacity utilization. This is incorrect since the safeguard application is for cement and not clinker.
3. Gross profit rather than net income as a measure of profitability. This is contrary to international trade cases.
4. "Operating income" to determine injury. This is an inadequate indicator of financial health as it does not reflect the ability of a company to service debt.
5. Inventory levels—specifically, that these were low and stable—as an indication of no injury. Inventory level is neither material nor proper as a factor since cement has a shelf life of six months at most.

With the negative determination of the Tariff Commission, RA 8800 restricts the DTI from using general safeguard measures as a policy tool in this case.

However, since government intervention or a "managed solution" continues to be justified in the short term to ensure consumer benefits, the matter will be referred to the Committee on Tariff-Related Matters of the Neda Board, chaired by the President. In this forum, policy options such as the modification of existing tariffs and the strengthening of competition policy will be determined.

PHILIPPINE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY, INC.

39th Annual Convention

April 7-10, 2002 • Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City

problemorientedpediatrics@pps.org.ph

MESSAGES

I wish the Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc. a meaningful Annual Convention.

I am deeply heartened to note that your organization remains a strong pillar of national health and empowerment. I am especially inspired by your dedicated service to our countrymen by providing access to quality health services to our less fortunate brothers and sisters for the needs of their children. Indeed the sense of nationalism and concern for the welfare of others embodied by this undertaking must be replicated throughout the country during these crucial times of national rebuilding.

I have no wish therefore but for you to employ your proven leadership and determination to make a difference in society. We count on you to thwart any threat to the welfare of our children such as the re-emergence of the poliovirus in recent times. With this renewal of your commitment and opportunity to plot future directions, let us join hands in striving to rise against the numerous challenges confronting our country today.

Have a fruitful convention and more power. MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to the men and women of the Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc. for holding its 39th Annual Convention.

The Philippine Pediatric Society is one of the Department's strongest allies in the pursuit of promoting and protecting the welfare of the Filipino child. Time and again, the PPS has demonstrated its ardent support to the health department in the implementation of national health programs targeted to improve the survival and quality of life of our children.

PPS has never failed to deliver its promise to give its unconditional support to our priority programs. More recently, the PPS has been instrumental in the success of our Balik Patak Kontra Polio campaign not only in mobilizing its membership to actively take part in the immunization activities but in correcting misconceptions regarding the campaign in the public mind and even among its ranks as well.

The Department of Health would like to commend and congratulate PPS for embarking on yet another significant milestone in its long history of magnanimous service to our countrymen. The theme of your convention, problemorientedpediatrics@pps.org.ph, is timely and relevant as it bespeaks of your organization's initiative to update your members and other health professionals in the appropriate diagnosis and management of our children's most pressing health concerns.

Together, let us work hand in hand to give our younger generations a brighter and more secure future ahead of them. I am confident that with PPS as a partner, we will be able to make a difference in improving the delivery of healthcare in our country as we look forward to a healthier and more progressive nation.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Governor of the Philippine Medical Association, we heartily greet the officers and members of the Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc., on the occasion of its 39th Annual Convention.

We feel truly fortunate and gratified to be able to join you in welcoming participants and delegates to this important occasion. In a country where a good number of children lose their lives to diseases, your Convention couldn't have been any more relevant and timely. We highly commend you for the laudable strides that you have accomplished in addressing pediatric maladies and for raising awareness in pediatricians and other allied professionals of the importance of continuing medical education through interactive and information scientific sessions. Let us all look forward to an unqualified success of this annual convention.

Thank you too, for keeping in step with us by bringing doctors to the vanguard of pediatric care, thus giving reality to theme, "Doctors at the Forefront – A Challenge for Change".

Congratulations. Mabuhay ang Philippine Society, Inc.

GIL C. FERNANDEZ, M.D.
President
Philippine Medical Association

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Chair: Lourdes L. Balcueva, M.D.
Co-Chair: Grace L. Uy. M.D.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES
Chair: Cesar M. Ong, M.D.
Co-Chair: Hilda Diana A. Alava, M.D.

SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITS
Chair: Genesis C. Rivera, M.D.
Co-Chairs: Adelaida L. Pedraja, M.D.
Cynthia B. Gomez, M.D.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
Chair: Lucita P. Aguilar, M.D.
Co-Chair: Francis M. Dimalanta, M.D.

SOUVENIR PROGRAM
Chair: Carina C. Quimbo, M.D.
Co-Chairs: Divina Y. Beato, M.D.
Claire Robles, M.D.
Emerita P. Perez, M.D.

SPORTS COMMITTEE
Chair: Arturo C. Libao, M.D.
Co-Chair: Carlos E. Paguio, M.D.
Mary Joan Millonado, M.D.

WAYS AND MEANS
Chair: Florentina U. Ty, M.D.
Co-Chair: Bibiano C. Reyes, M.D.
Margaret L. Fong, M.D.

MESSAGES

With great anticipation all those involved in the health and care of children, whether pediatricians, family medicine physicians, or general practitioners and nurses, attend the annual convention of PPS. It is one of the best attended in the medical and health conventions. The importance and latest subjects taken up make everyone wish to be updated.

The convention theme: problemorientedpediatrics@pps.org.ph, is both exciting and attractive as it leads to the solution of present day problems in the health care of children by update methods.

As usual, it will be an opportunity to meet old colleagues and make new ones, updating PPS members on how practice and subsistence are, in different localities, we greet and welcome all who are expected on this informative convention of PPS.

Fe del Mundo
FE DEL MUNDO, MD., MA
Honorary President, PPS

The 39th Annual Convention is held on the occasion of PPS' 55th (emerald) year and we, the current officers and members of the National Board of Trustees, sincerely appreciate the MCU-FDTMF Department of Pediatrics and the Organizing Committee led by Dr. Della G. Pelaez for making it a truly memorable event.

At this juncture in our history, we note with extreme gratitude the foundations established by our predecessors in the areas of training and continuing pediatric education, community service and child advocacy, research and publications, administrative affairs, and subspecialty development. Their collective achievements brought us from the past to the time we took oath on April 5, 2000 but would not be enough to bring us further on.

With the battlecry "streamlining, mainstreaming, spearheading, trailblazing", we set out with Management Action Plan 2000-2002 that identified flagship and enhancement projects which jumpstarted PPS' voyage enroute to its diamond year and beyond. Foremost among our nine showcases is the Child Health Informatics Program (CHIP) aimed at globalizing and modernizing governance via cutting-edge information and communication technology. All the others geared towards positioning PPS at the forefront of Philippine pediatric education and child health advocacy.

At the close of this conventions, we pass on to the next set of leaders a very vibrant organization of 2,500 pediatricians distributed nationwide; a huge central administration consisting of 5 boards, 5 councils, 49 committees, the NCR and 9 regional chapters, and 11 member-subspecialty societies; markedly improved systems and procedures, and; ample resources to sustain existing and soon-to-be-developed projects.

For all that PPS has become and will be, we are most grateful to our ever-committed members, our omnipresent benefactors and support groups and, above all, our Lord God.

CARMELO A. ALFILER, MD
President, PPS Inc.

The Philippine Pediatric Society has gone far and wide in its perspective and visions. We can boast that as a society, we have stood the tests of time. We are resilient to changes and have turned these advances to our advantage. Pediatricians have welcomed the cyber-information technology era and are seemingly more ready to face what the future holds. For this reason, our forthcoming 39th Annual Convention with the theme problemorientedpediatrics@pps.org.ph will venture on practical application of this technology to our daily pediatric clinical practice.

Unique to this year's convention is the "participatory approach" of tackling controversial and unsolved issues in pediatrics. Simultaneous sessions are in the forms of "Panel Discussion", and "Debate" and "Interactive Session". In these approaches, the audience will be given more chances to voice out their thoughts and share their views.

The traditional Plenary Sessions have been well planned by brilliant minds to cater to the needs of the Filipino pediatrician practicing in the midst of the changing times. To ensure a balanced programming, the pre-convention workshops, research paper presentation and even the sports activities have been even more enhanced.

This is a convention you'll truly be proud of and we welcome all of you with much anticipation.

DELLA G. PELAEZ, M.D.
Over-all Chair
39th PPS Annual-Convention

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

OVERVIEW

TIME	DAY 1 - APRIL 7	DAY 2 - APRIL 8	DAY 3 - APRIL 9	DAY 4 - APRIL 10
6:00 - 9:00 am			PPS-PHA-PSPC National Biotech Challenge	
8:00 - 9:00 am	REGISTRATION Pre-Convention Activities 1. Research (Pasu) 2. Cyber (PICC)	REGISTRATION Opening of Exhibits	ELECTION PL-4	HAB Meeting
9:00 - 9:45 am	TENNIS	PL-1	PL-5	PL-7
10:00 - 10:45 am		PL-2	PL-6	PL-8
11:00 - 11:45 am		PL-3	Luncheon Symposia	PL-9
12:00 - 1:45 pm		• Luncheon Symposia • Visit to Exhibits (Reception Hall)		• Luncheon Symposia • Visit to Exhibits (Reception Hall)
1:00 - 2:00 pm			Business Meeting (Plenary Hall)	
2:00 - 3:00 pm		SS1- Press Center SS2 - MR4 SS3 - MR5 SS1- Banquet Hall SS5 - MR6 SS6 - MR2 SS7 - MR3	Resident's Quiz Bee (Plenary Hall) GOLF FEST	SS1 - MR4 SS2 - MR5 SS3 - MR6 SS4 - MR2 SS5- Press Center SS6 - MR3 SS7 - MR8
3:00 - 4:00 pm		CYBER 2nd Floor Reception Hall Lobby		CYBER 2nd Floor Reception Hall Lobby
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Holy Mass (Manila Hotel)			Closing Ceremonies MR5
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Opening Ceremonies (Manila Hotel)			
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Dinner (Manila Hotel)			
8:00 - 10:00 pm	Fellowship (Manila Hotel)			Annual Dinner/ Induction Ceremony (Manila Hotel)

Legend: PL (Plenary Lecture) / SS (Simultaneous Symposia)

PLENARY SESSIONS

Monday – April 8

09:00 – 09:45 am *Well Child Care: The Task Force Recommendations Launching of Pocket Guide on Preventive Pediatric Health Care 2002*
Speaker: Miguel L. Noche Jr., MD
Chair: Zenaida L. Antonio, MD
Moderator: Ma. Stella G. Paspe, MD

10:00 – 10:45 am *Enhancing Clinical Practice: The Role of Mobile Technologies*
Speaker: Jacinto Blas V. Mantaring III, MD
Chair: Mary N. Chua, MD
Moderator: Peter Manuel M. Oliva, MD

11:00 – 11:45 am *Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension in the Newborn: Current Diagnosis and Management*
Speaker: Victor Yu, MD
Chair: Eustacia M. Rigor, MD
Moderator: Sionnie B. Dy Chu Tee, MD

Tuesday – April 9

08:00 – 08:45 am *Nutrition In The Sick Neonate: Enteral vs Parenteral Feedings*
Speaker: Victor Yu, MD (Australia)
Chair: Amelia R. Fernandez, MD
Moderator: Demosthenes R. Albay, MD

09:00 – 09:45 am *Pneumococcal Infections: Treatment and Prevention*
Speaker: Georges Peter, MD
Chair: Simona C. Alikpala, MD
Moderator: Elizabeth M. Mendoza, MD

10:00 – 10:45 am *Hair Loss: A Clinical Approach*
Speaker: Giam Yoke Chin, MD
Chair: Xerxes R. Navarro, MD
Moderator: Eduardo T. Taguba, MD

Wednesday – April 10

09:00 – 09:45 am *Emerging Antimicrobial Resistance: A Global Problem*
Speaker: Georges Peter, MD
Chair: Esperanza F. Rivera, MD
Moderator: Belen Matilde A. Bonus, MD

10:00 – 10:45 am *PPS at 55: What Every Pediatrician and Trainee Must Know*
Speaker: Carmelo A. Alfiler, MD
Chair: Remedios G. Arellano, MD
Moderator: Aurea D. Matias, MD

11:00 – 11:45 am *Child Abuse: Implications For Health And Policy*
Speaker: Ms. Gina Lopez
Chair: Hermogenes B. Purugganan, MD
Moderator: Marianne Naomi N. Poca, MD

SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS

Monday 02:00 – 04:00 pm — VENUE

A. Panel Discussion
• *Adoption and Foster Care* — PRESS CENTER
Speakers: Mother – Pura Flor D. Isiota, MD
Psychologist – Portia V. Luspo, MD
Lawyer – Teresita Sanchez, MD
Moderator: Jude Vottorio M. Faelnar, MD (Cebu City)

B. Panel Discussion
• *Free Operative Clearance* — MR4
Speakers: Anesthesiologist – Teresa N. Manor, MD
Cardiologist – Fay L. Chua, MD (Davao City)
Pulmonologist – Alexander O. Tuazon, MD
Moderator: Nila T. Torres. MD (Angeles City)

C. Panel Discussion
• *Adolescent Health* — MR 5
Speakers: Adolescent Pediatrician – Mary Agnes B. Teotico, MD
Gynecologist – Lilia P. Luna, MD.
Moderator: Jose A. Amanse, MD (Naga City)

D. Controversies
• *Early Schooling* — BANQUET HALL
Speakers: PRO – Ms. Preciosa C. Soliven
CON – Alexis Socorro D. Reyes, MD
Moderator: Joel d. Lazaro, MD (Laguna)

E. Controversies
• *Plasma Transfusion in Neonatal Sepsis* — MR 6
Speakers: PRO – Daisy Evangeline C. Garcia, MD (La Union)
CON – Aureo D. Matias, MD (Ilocos Sur)
Reactor: Victor Yu, MD
Moderator: Jose B. Salazar, MD

F. Interactive Session/ Paper Presentations — MR 2
• *Congenital and Perinatal Infections*
Speaker: Alida Fe. Z. Talento, MD
• *Free Paper Presentations*
Moderator: Ma. Lourdes G. Lagunilla, MD (Angeles City)

G. Interactive Session/ Paper Presentations — MR 3
• *Thyroid Problems*
Speaker: Melinda M. Atienza, MD
• *Free Paper Presentation*
Moderator: Ma. Anna S. Nitorreda, MD (Davao City)

Wednesday 02:00 – 04:00 pm

A. Panel Discussion
• *Residency Training* — MR4
Speaker: PPS – Esperanza F. Rivera, MD
Department Chairs: Roberto A. Espos Jr, MD (Cavite)
Fortunato L. Cristobal, MD (Zamboanga City)
Moderator: Ma. Antonia S. Gensoli, MD (Bacolod City)

B. Panel Discussion
• *The Current Status of Poliomyelitis* — MR 5
Speakers: WHO – Siguin Roesel, MD
National Commission on Polio Eradication
Nina G. Barzaga, MD
Expert Panel on Polio Eradication
Salvacion R. Gatchalian, MD
Moderator: Alda M. Salonga

C. Controversies
• *Short Courses Therapy in Bacterial Respiratory Infections* — MR 6
Speakers: PRO – Jo-anna A. De Castro, MD (Cavite)
CON – Beatriz P. Quiambao, MD
Reactor: Georges Peter, MD
Moderator: Lester A. Deniega, MD

D. Controversies
• *H. Pylori Infection and Abdominal Pain* — MR 2
Speakers: PRO – Imelda Larissa G. Sanchez, MD (La Union)
CON – Mary Jean G. Guno, MD
Moderator: Felizardo N. Gatcheco, MD

E. Interactive Sessions — PRESS CENTER
• *Bleeding Emergencies*
Speaker: Jose Antonio S. Quitoves, MD (Cebu City)
• *Blisters and Ulcers*
Speaker: Roberta C. Romero, MD
Moderator: Gregorio G. Cardona Jr., MD (Iligan City)

F. Interhospital Prospective Research Paper Contest — MR 3
Moderator: Agnes S. Regal, MD

G. Launching of the New Philippine Consensus Report on the Management of Childhood Asthma — BANQUET HALL
Committee on Childhood Asthma Management Program

Nestle
NUTRITION

For particulars, contact: **PPS SECRETARIAT**, 32 Misamis St., Bago Bantay, Q.C. • Tel. Nos. 920-6938, 926-6758, 9266759, 922-2435; Fax No. 926-2381

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Middle East peace quest does not require Arafat, says Bush

CRAWFORD, Texas—President George W. Bush said Friday the US quest for peace in the Middle East can succeed without Yasser Arafat because "there are others in the region who can lead."

He also said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "needs to go" and he was confident he could build a coalition to make that happen.

Bush made his strong comments before beginning weekend talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a supporter of his Middle East policies. As Israel kept up its military offensive, the White House avoided criticizing it for not immediately following Bush's urgent request to pull back its forces.

The Middle East crisis and, to a lesser extent, Iraq are expected to dominate weekend talks between Bush and Blair.

Blair was having dinner Friday night at Bush's ranch with the president and his wife, Laura. Reflecting the special US-British relationship, Bush invited Blair to join him for a top-secret CIA briefing Saturday.

On Arafat, Bush said the Palestinian leader has repeatedly failed to keep his promises to stem terrorism and hasn't earned US trust.

"He has let his people down and there are others in the region who can lead," Bush said, naming Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

"So Colin Powell is going to go to the region to gather those leaders up and to start a process, hopefully, that will lead to lasting peace," Bush said in a pre-meeting interview with Britain's ITV network.

Aides indicated Bush's comments were meant to be seen as a signal that he has decided to distance himself from Arafat and rely on other Arab leaders to bring peace.

On Thursday, Bush urged Arab leaders such as Mubarak to fill a void left by Arafat—and senior administration officials said Secretary of State Powell may meet with other Palestinian leaders.

In the interview, Bush dismissed the "silly notion" that he hasn't been involved enough in the Middle East. He also said that Israel-Palestinian talks led by President Bill Clinton at Camp David, Maryland, in 2000 led to more violence.

"We've tried summits in the past, as you may remember," Bush said when asked why he was sending Powell on Sunday instead of personally trying to organize a peace summit. "It wasn't all that long ago where a summit was called and nothing happened, and as a result we had significant intefadeh in the area," Bush said.

When White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer expressed a similar view recently, it was seen as a criticism of Clinton. Under pressure from the Democrat's former advisers, Bush aides had Fleischer renounce the statement. ***AP***

AN ELDERLY Palestinian woman walks in front of an Israeli tank blocking the entrance of the Nativity square in the old part of Bethlehem, April 5. For a fourth day, armed Palestinians were holed up in the Bethlehem church that marks the birthplace of Jesus. REUTERS

Human clone effort leads to pregnancy, reports say

TOKYO—An Italian fertility specialist has claimed success in using human cloning technology to bring about a pregnancy, the first such case in the world if successful, Japanese media reported on Saturday.

Based on an Itar-Tass news agency report out of Abu Dhabi, the reports said Severino Antinori made the announcement on Friday in the United Arab Emirates, noting that the pregnant woman was now in her eighth week.

Antinori did not reveal the identity of the woman nor the details of the process by which she became pregnant, but said 5,000 couples took part in the project, according to the reports.

The Italian physician last year announced his intention to become the first scientist to clone a human being, but the idea has met outrage around the world, despite the promised benefits of some avenues of research.

Antinori's move prompted the United Nations to set up a panel last year aimed at drafting an international treaty to ban the cloning of human beings.

The treaty drafting process is expected to take years, but Friday's announcement is likely to give more urgency to the debate, which began in February. ***Reuters***

US military eyes Qatar as backup for Saudi base

WASHINGTON—The US military is looking at Qatar as a backup location for its Gulf command post if it is forced to evacuate the facility in Saudi Arabia, The Washington Post reported on Saturday.

Citing unidentified defense officials, the Post said the contingency plan to move the base was intended as a precaution, but did not reflect any decision to abandon the Saudi base.

Late last month, US officials denied a report in the Guardian newspaper in London that the Pentagon already had begun moving its Saudi-based military headquarters to Qatar.

The Guardian reported on March 27 that the Pentagon had begun moving the heart of its Gulf forces from remote Prince Sultan Air Base in the Saudi desert to Qatar because of Saudi opposition to a possible US military attack against Iraq.

But unidentified officials said at the time there were no moves afoot to transfer forces out of the kingdom.

The Post report, however, said the plan calls for relocating the base only if it comes under attack or Saudi authorities attempt to deny access to it.

Since last fall, the Post said US authorities have installed equipment and taken other steps to make Qatar's Al Udeid Air Base an alternate command center, increasing the number of warplanes there and raising the troop level to about 2,000 in a large military tent city in the desert.

Dozens of US warplanes and about 4,000 military personnel are still in Saudi Arabia, it said.

While the United States has a major military presence in other areas of the Gulf, including Kuwait and the headquarters of the US 5th Fleet in Bahrain, its air command headquarters in Saudi Arabia could be a key to any new war in Iraq.

The White House said in January that President George W. Bush wanted to keep the US military presence in Saudi Arabia despite reported grumblings from Saudis that US forces had overstayed their welcome since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

Saudi and other Middle East Arab leaders stressed to US Vice President Dick Cheney on his visit last month that they did not favor any new war with Iraq despite Washington's charges that Iraq's hunger for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons posed a threat to the region and the world.

The Post reported that the Qataris have made it clear to Pentagon officials that they would not seek to place limits on US operations. ***Reuters***

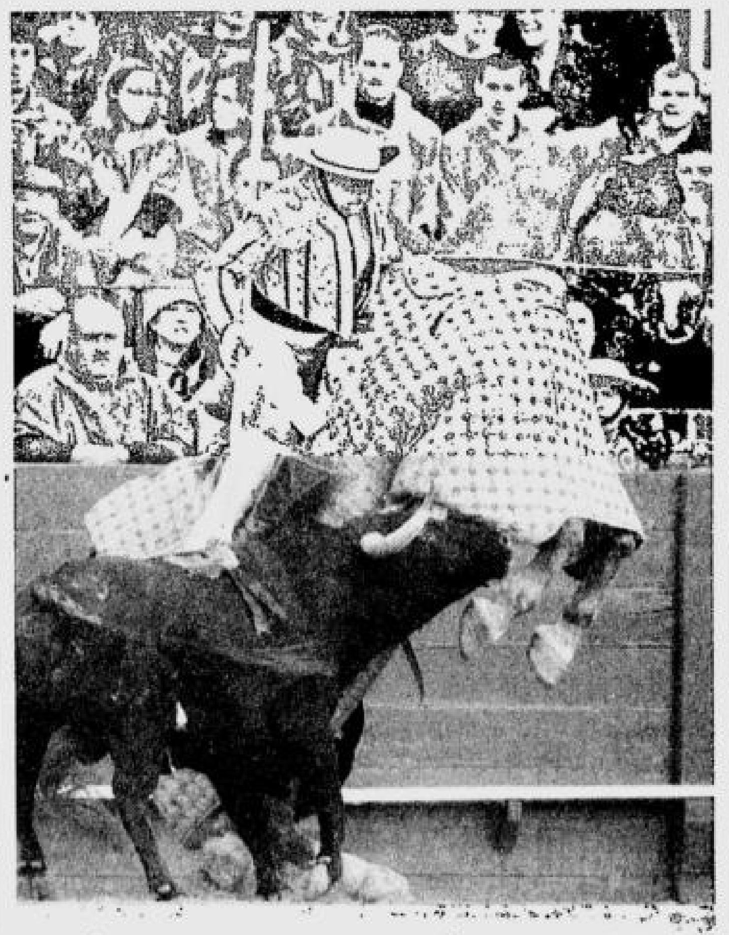
Diesel bus banned in Delhi

NEW DELHI—India's Supreme Court Friday threw out a petition seeking more time for public transport operators in New Delhi to phase out their diesel-run buses in favor of ones running on environment-friendly compressed natural gas (CNG).

Last year the court had set Jan. 31 as a deadline for bus operators to convert their petrol and diesel-run buses to CNG in an effort to control pollution in the capital.

On Friday the Supreme Court also imposed a retrospective fine of 500 rupees ($10) for each day that bus operators used diesel buses after the deadline.

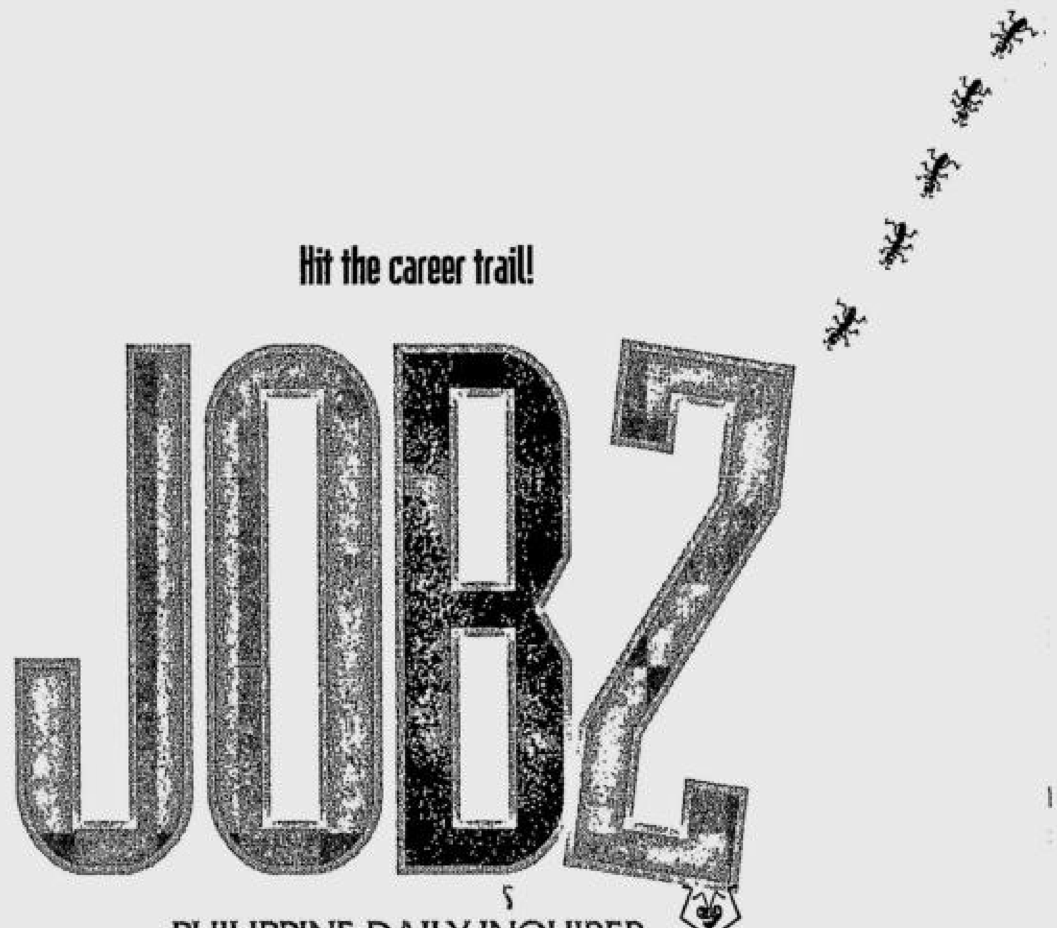
There are about 10,000 buses on Delhi's roads, of which only a small fraction are using CNG. ***AFP***



DANSE MACABRE REUTERS

Spanish picador Antonio Amo and his horse are attacked by the bull during a bullfight in The Maestranza bullring in Seville April 5. The picador and horse were not hurt in the incident.

Hit the career trail!



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N. Korea agrees to renew talks with US, says envoy

LIM

SEOUL—North Korea has agreed to revive stalled dialogue with Seoul and Washington, a South Korean envoy said Saturday upon returning to Seoul from the communist North.

The two Koreas "have agreed to restore to normal South-North relations that have temporarily been frozen," the envoy, Lim Dong-won, said in a nationally televised news conference.

Lim also said North Korean leader Kim Jong-il "has expressed willingness to open dialogue with the United States, and will accept a US envoy's visit to the North."

During his four-day stay in the North, Lim met with Kim Jong-il and other top North Korean officials to discuss stalled inter-Korean dialogue and icy relations between Washington and North Korea.

According to Lim, Kim Jong-il said he accepts a proposed visit to North Korea by Jack Pritchard, a top Washington expert on the communist country. The date of the US envoy's visit will be set in coming contacts between Washington and Pyongyang, Lim said.

Lim also said he understands that Donald Gregg, a former US ambassador to South Korea, either began a visit to the North on Friday, or was about to arrive Saturday. Gregg had earlier said he wanted to encourage North Korea to revive talks with the United States.

Lim said he had conveyed to the North Korean leader a message from South Korean President Kim Dae-jung urging Pyongyang to break out of isolation and build ties with the outside world, especially with the United States and Japan.

The envoy said the North Korean leader responded "positively."

After walking across the border Saturday at the truce village of Panmunjom, 56 km north of Seoul, Lim told reporters that his trip to the North "yielded more good results than expected."

Lim said he explained to North Korean leaders about the emergence of a new global security environment since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

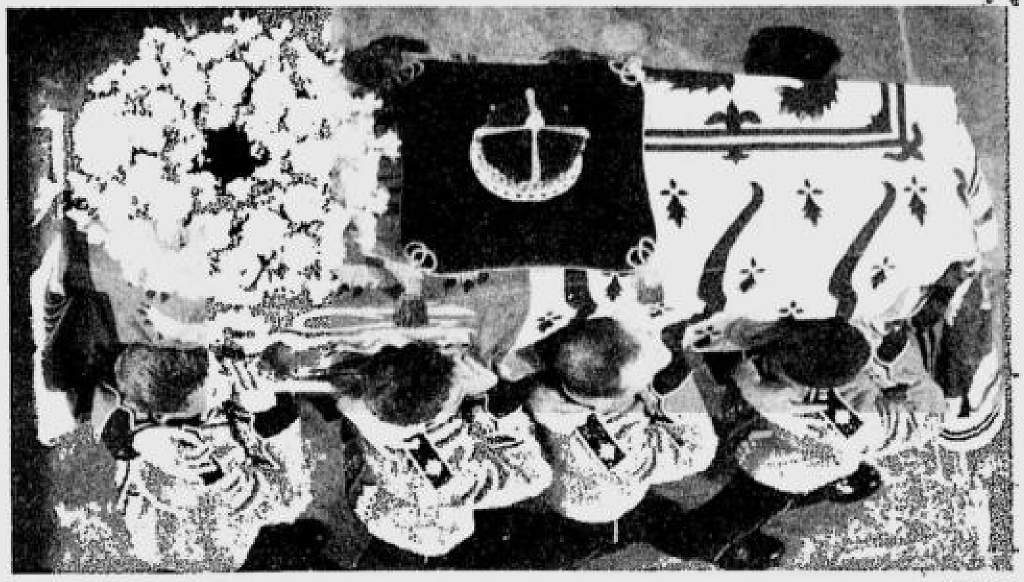
US President George W. Bush in January labeled North Korea—along with Iran and Iraq—as part of "an axis of evil" countries with ambitions to develop weapons of mass destruction.

North Korea is suspected of having a nuclear weapons program. It is also known to have thousands of tons of chemical weapons and missiles that can reach the western US mainland.

The South Korean envoy said the North Korean leader appeared to have "a good understanding of the grave international situation" being faced by his reclusive, impoverished country.

Lim said he also urged North Korea to open its suspected nuclear weapons program to outside inspections, but that Pyongyang officials did not respond positively.

Under a 1994 agreement with the United States, North Korea has frozen its nuclear program in return for two Western-developed nuclear reactors. Citing a delay in the $4.6 billion reactor project, North Korea has rejected UN inspections of its nuclear program. *AP*



REUTERS

THE COFFIN of Britain's Queen Mother lies in state in Westminster Hall, London April 5. The Queen Mother will lie in state until her funeral on April 9 after which she will be interred at St. George's Chapel in Windsor next to her late husband King George VI.

Queen Mother draws thousands

LONDON—Thousands of Britons queued through the night for a glimpse of the Queen Mother's coffin, lying in state under the silent protection of four royal guardsmen.

The mile-long line of well-wishers snaked along the banks of London's River Thames on Friday, and police said Westminster Hall, where the coffin remains until the funeral on Tuesday, would stay open until all mourners had filed past.

Officials were taken by surprise by the large number of people who wanted to say farewell to the Queen Mother, who was perhaps the most popular member of the royal family.

Westminster Hall, the grandiose medieval setting for the royal lying-in-state, would stay open all night to allow long queues of visitors to file slowly past the Queen Mother's coffin to pay their respects, officials said.

They had expected to close the hall to the public at 6 p.m., but said they did not want to disappoint members of the public, who were moving past the coffin at the rate of 4,000 an hour.

The queue to view the coffin, uniting pensioners, toddlers and tourists, was estimated to be tens of thousands strong.

Up to 400,000 people had earlier packed the route of a funeral procession to take the coffin to Westminster Hall, straining to see the coffin borne slowly on a horse-drawn gun carriage and accompanied by prominent royalty along with 1,700 soldiers, sailors and airmen in ceremonial finery. *Reuters*

LA cardinal probed on sex abuse case

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony said that he is under investigation on charges of sexual misconduct allegedly committed more than 30 years ago.

The cardinal, who heads the largest Roman Catholic archdiocese in the United States, denied the charges late Friday and said he had never heard of his accuser until informed of her claims by the bishop of Fresno, John Steinblock, late last month.

It was the latest accusation in a sexual abuse scandal that has rocked the Roman Catholic Church in the United States and led to the removal of priests in several states since the trial earlier this year of defrocked Boston priest John Geoghan, who was sentenced to prison for child molestation.

The woman claimed that Mahony knocked her unconscious and molested her when she was a teenager attending a high school he taught at when he was a priest in 1970.

In an interview broadcast on NBC, Flora Mae Hickman said she was knocked unconscious when she was crossing the campus of San Joaquin High School in Fresno and when she woke up, Mahony was hovering over her.

"I know people are not going to believe it, but it happened to me," she said.

a statement Friday night, Mahony said he asked for investigations by both police and the church. "My personal integrity demands that I refute this," he said.

He said that when he learned of the accusations on March 22 he personally asked the detective in charge of the city's Sexually Exploited Children's Unit to inform his counterparts in Fresno.

"Such false allegations are hurtful and troubling to me. Yet I continue to pray fervently for those who make them," he said.

Revelations of the accusations capped a rough day for the cardinal, who fought a losing court battle to prevent e-mails he had sent his lawyer on the sexual abuse scandal from being read on the radio by two talk show hosts. *Reuters*

WHO to couch potatoes: Get up and move

SAO PAULO, Brazil—World Health Organization Director General Gro Harlem Brundtland delivered an order to couch potatoes across the globe on Friday—get off the sofa and exercise.

Brundtland's message opened events leading up to World Health Day on April 7 from Brazil.

The UN health agency has declared war on what it calls an "epidemic of inactivity," which it says causes heart problems, obesity, and diabetes.

"We have a cure," Brundtland said. "It's physical exercise, 30 minutes per day."

"It's taking the kids to school on foot or taking a walk around the park," she told reporters at a Sao Paulo city news conference. "It's using the stairs instead of the elevator. It's getting off the sofa and moving."

The WHO's campaign, dubbed "Move for health," is modeled on the Sao Paulo state government's 1997 drive to convince sedentary people in Brazil's richest and most populous city to do 30 minutes of exercise per day to help ward off illness. *Reuters*

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DATE	TIME	TRAINING COURSE/ SEMINAR	NO. OF HRS.
Apr 15-29	4-7 pm	MS WINDOWS & MS OFFICE for the Digital Personnel	32
Apr 15-16	8 am-5 pm	MS POWERPOINT & the INTERNET for Teachers	16
Apr 15-22	8am-12nn	WEBPAGE DEVELOPMENT	24
Apr 15-24	4-7 pm	Practical VISUAL BASIC PROGRAMMING	24
May 13-22	1-4 pm	WEBPAGE DEVELOPMENT	24
May 13-16	4-8 pm	MS POWERPOINT & the INTERNET for Teachers	16
May 13-June 3	6-8 pm	MS WINDOWS & MS OFFICE for the Digital Personnel	32
Jun 17-20	8 am-5 pm	MS WINDOWS & MS OFFICE for the Digital Personnel	32
Jun 17-26	1-4 pm	MS ACCESS & DATABASE MGT. for Data Managers	24
Jun 17-19	8am-5pm	WEBPAGE DEVELOPMENT	24

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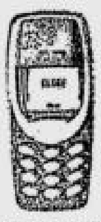

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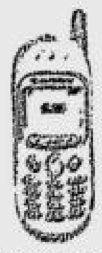

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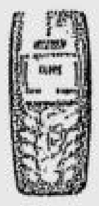

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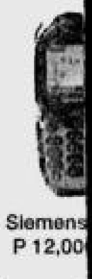

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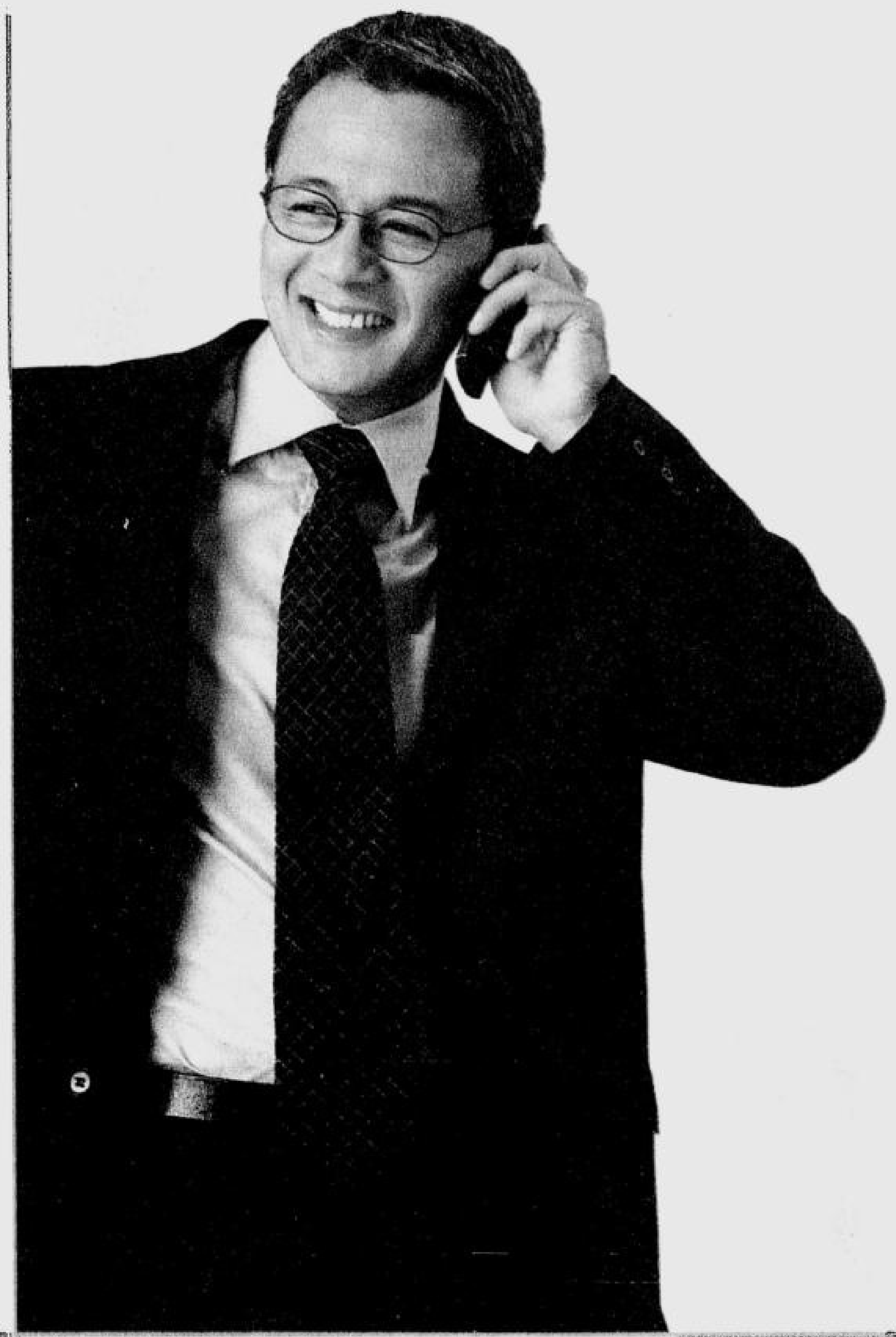

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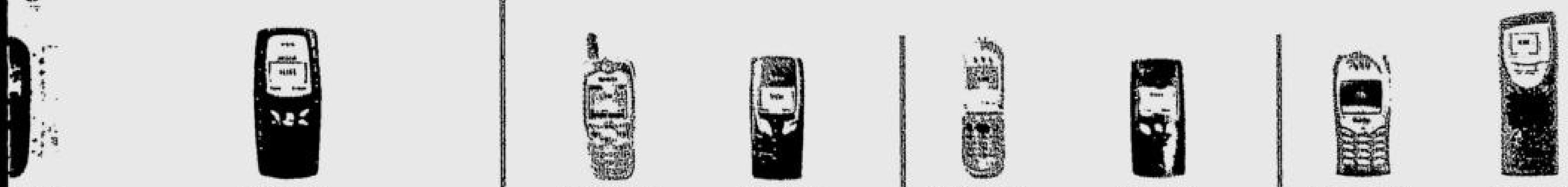

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GMA orders opening of Expo Pilipino

By Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—President Macapagal-Arroyo, exuberant on her 55th birthday, did not spare jailed former President Joseph Estrada from criticism.

Addressing 30,000 people at the Expo Pilipino, the centennial park that her predecessor closed in 1999 on the heels of alleged corruption, Ms Macapagal called Estrada as "*alang lugud kareng Kapampangan* (someone who did not love the Kapampangans)."

Immediately after saying that, the President announced the plan of Clark Development Corp. to rehabilitate and reopen the 60-hectare theme park to draw tourists and create jobs in Pampanga and other provinces in Central Luzon.

On Friday, the park, which cost the Ramos administration P3.5 billion, was a picture of neglect.

Bushes grew high and thick grasses crept on what were once manicured lawns featuring replicas of the country's major tourist destinations.

Towering metal poles that encircled the park had been corroded by rust, and no flags fluttered like it used to be when the Expo was opened to the public in 1998, the 100th year of the Philippine Republic.

The amphitheater, where the President's birthday program was held, was the only facility maintained by First Clark Centennial Corp. (FCCC) to generate money from musical concerts that came few and far between since Estrada ordered the closure of the park in June 1999.

The teflon roofing of the amphitheater, also known as the Freedom Ring, which Estrada humorously referred to as a circus, needed immediate repair.

Estrada and his political allies in the Senate had accused former President Fidel Ramos, officials of FCCC, Bases Conversion Development Board, CDC, the National Centennial Commission and the private partner firm Asia Konstruct of corruption, mainly overpricing.

Expo's original P1.4 billion shot up almost thrice, a report led by a team of former Senator Rene Saguisag showed.

CDC president Emmanuel Angeles said Expo would be reopened as a "wholesome educational and family destination."

The park will feature musical concerts, theater performances, display and sales of Philippine products, sports games, family-oriented events and educational exhibits.

According to him, CDC, FCCC and Asia Konstruct were in their final stages of negotiations to adopt a new theme for the park.

In 1999, FCCC officials reported maintaining the park at a cost of P500,000 monthly. Relying on minimum earnings from concerts, FCCC had not been able to save the park from deteriorating.

At the height of its operations, the Expo generated an average income of P2 million monthly from entrance fees and employed some 1,000 employees from Pampanga.

About 300 Aeta families around Clark also earned income from vending souvenir items and fruits to Expo's visitors that, at the height of the centennial celebrations, reached nearly 20,000 daily.

Pampanga mayors, lamenting the closure and the resulting economic impact, had urged the President to reopen the park.

Earlier, Angeles told reporters here that the state-owned firm wants to manage and reopen Expo Pilipino in preparation for the 2005 South East Asian Games.

He said CDC wants the SEA games to be held here.

The Expo Pilipino could be converted into an "Olympic Village" and a venue for educational and science and technology exhibits, he said.

5 Arabs not deported, says Aviation Security Group

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The five Arabs, who were accosted by aviation police here on Thursday for being flown in by a chartered airplane bearing questionable documentation, were not deported, contrary to a wire agency report, the Aviation Security Group (ASG) said.

Members of the Baguio Islamic community also told the INQUIRER that the five Arabs, who arrived for a lecture at the Baguio Islamic Center here, were still in the Philippines.

"They have had no trouble with authorities in Manila despite the embarrassing incident at (Baguio's Loakan Airport)."

"Why should they be touched? They were scholars on a lecture tour. (The government) is being very paranoid," a Muslim scholar here said on Friday when he checked up on his guests.

An Agence France Press report quoted a National Bureau of Investigation source who claimed that the foreigners' chartered plane was observed circling the city before it landed at the Loakan airport at 10:40 a.m. on Thursday.

One of the passengers was also seen videotaping the airport premises when he alighted from the plane.

The plane was carrying five Arab men, although only four left Baguio that same day.

The NBI source claimed the authorities were convinced that the visitors had terrorist links and were to be deported immediately.

A source from the Air Transportation Office said US Embassy officials had voiced serious interest in the airport incident because one of the five passengers had claimed to have embassy clearances, which he could not produce.

But the ASG is still finalizing its investigation and had not recommended any action against the four Arabs, including a certain Hammad Adel Sulayman whose name surfaced on the Bureau of Immigration's hold-departure list, said PO3 Adonis Bautista, ASG duty officer.

Bautista said they have not received any advisory from the BI about the status of the Arabs whose identities were only established based on an exit manifesto of an AvAir chartered plane, piloted by Capt. Israel Camino.

It is Camino who is under investigation, said Eduardo Robles, Baguio area manager of the ATO.

Camino flew in without the mandatory flight plan, Robles said. But when Robles checked with the ATO and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, "Camino had listed down two other people as his passengers, and not five Arabs."

The flight's entry manifest listed "Joseph Khan" and "Emmy Lim." When Camino returned to Manila, he listed the names of Sulayman, Aldalan Nedal Falah, Ibrahim A.S. Abdullah and Faizal Alkasim in the manifest.

ASG investigators are withholding the name of a fifth passenger, who is supposedly unaccounted for in Baguio.

But an INQUIRER source said the fifth passenger was actually a Baguio resident, who acted as the guide of the four Arabs.

The source also said at least two of their guests only spoke and read Arabic, which placed the names on Camino's exit manifest in doubt.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience clear to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: **PAGASA**

Metro Manila	Clear to partly cloudy	HI35° Lo24°
Baguio	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	HI 34° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Clear to partly cloudy	HI 35° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly cloudy to clear	HI 33° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly cloudy to clear	HI 32° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy to clear	HI 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly cloudy to clear	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/04/06/02

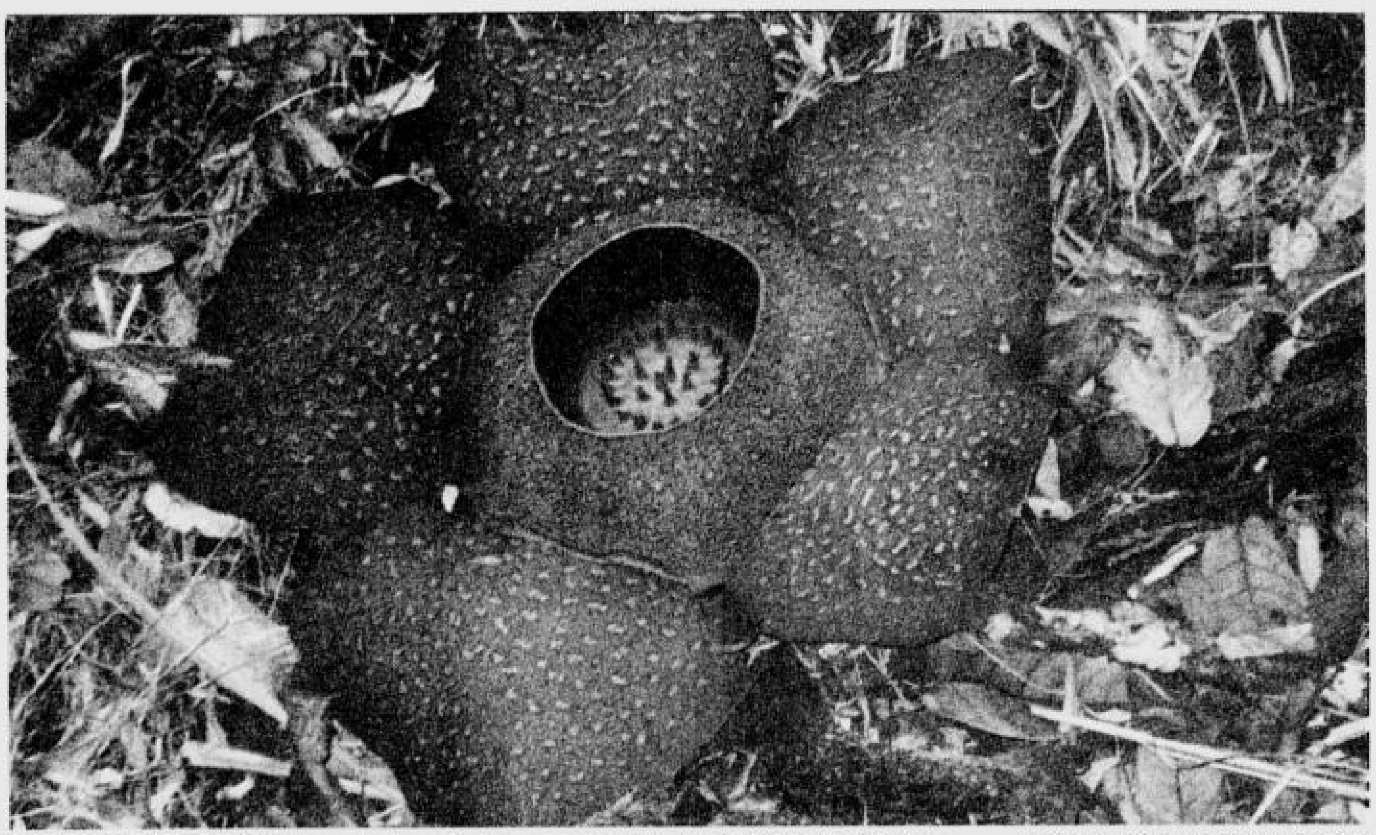
Jeepney plunges into ravine; 3 die, 11 hurt

BAGUIO CITY—Three people were killed while 11 others were hurt on Friday when their jeepney plunged into a 25-foot ravine along the Marcos Highway in Tuba, Benguet, police said.

Police said the jeepney, which was bound for Manila, lost its brakes and skidded. The highway was slippery after a downpour on Friday afternoon.

The regional Office of Civil Defense identified the fatalities as Gerardo Ignacio, 44, jeepney driver; Jephine Pio, 21; and Virginia Pascual, 44.

The victims, who belong to three families, were on their way to Metro Manila after touring Baguio on Thursday. ***Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



THE RAFFLESIA, in full bloom, is found at Barangay Cabladan in Sibalom, Antique. PHOTO BY BUTCH MARQUEZ OF THE DENR

ANTIQUE ATTRACTION

World's biggest flower draws trekkers

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The mountains of Antique hold a special appeal this summer due to the presence of the rare rafflesia (*Rafflesiasp*), the largest flower in the world.

Found at Mt. Porras in Barangay Imparayan at the Sibalom National Park in Sibalom, Antique, the flower is attracting hordes of local tourists.

The regional Department of Environment and Natural Resources is worried, however, about the influx of trekkers into the site.

Celso Loriega Jr., assistant executive director for operations of the DENR regional office, urged "strict protection and conservation" of the flower that has been seen by scores of people since it was made known to the public.

The rafflesia is brownish red with white or light spots and sharp spikes at the center. It grows up to one meter wide and four inches thick, and weighs up to 15 pounds.

Parasite plant

A parasite, the flower has no stem and leaf, only roots that penetrate and spread on its host plant, the *alupidan* vine.

From a small, dark bud, it grows to the size of a cabbage head and blooms in nine months.

It has a repulsive smell, like that of rotten meat. Flies and all kinds of insects roost on its petals to pollinate it.

The flower is in full bloom for five to six days, then blackens and wilts.

The DENR said that the Sibalom Park is one of the three places in the Philippines where the flower is found.

Rafflesia got its name from Sir Stanford Raffles, the founder of Singapore. There are at least a dozen species of Rafflesia in Southeast Asia, two of them unique to the Philippines, "*Rafflesia manillana*" and "*Rafflesia schadenbergiana.*"

Rafflesia manillana, the smaller species, is listed as highly endangered but was sighted at Mt. Isarog in Bicol in recent years, the DENR said.

The other species has not been seen since the first specimen was collected in 1882 from Mt. Apo in Davao. The DENR has yet to determine the Rafflesia species found in Sibalom.

Lucky visitors

Seeing it in full bloom requires a bit of luck as it is an unforgettable experience. An expedition organized by Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier on Maundy Wednesday, March 27, went to the mountains of Sibalom to visit the rare flower. The group is composed of some 30 government employees, reporters and members of civic groups who braved three hours of uphill climb under the scorching summer sun.

They reached the place where the flower grows but the blooms have already wilted, said Remie Lucencio, a reporter who joined the trek.

Antique writer Alex de los Santos said Rafflesia is locally known as "*uruy*." Its first documented sighting was on Feb. 22, 2000 at Mt. Porras, Imparayan, Sibalom, by members of The Antique Outdoors, an environmentalist group.

De los Santos wrote that Rafflesia is a celebrated biological curiosity in Antique. The local media talked about it for days and a photo exhibit of the flower was mounted by The Antique Outdoors. It also sent many Antiqueños planning a hike to Sibalom, the only town in Panay where it grows.

Recently it has been drawing visitors from Iloilo.

Appeal to experts

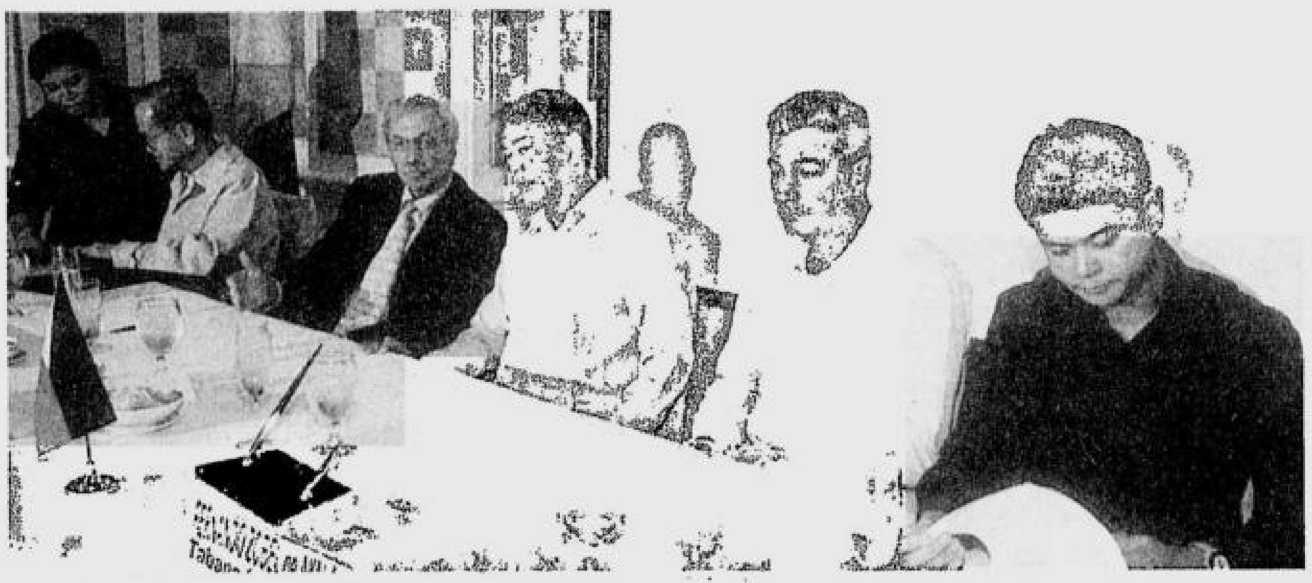
The DENR's Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) is seeking assistance from local experts to conduct a scientific study of the Rafflesia to help conserve the flower and its habitat.

Raoul Geollegue, DENR regional executive director, targets a community-based effort to conserve the rare flower. He said barangay officials in Imparayan are vigilant enough to protect it.

Tourism regional director Edwin Trompeta plans to send a group to the Rafflesia site. He sees trekking to the Sibalom park as a tourist-drawing activity.

In a recent launch of Western Visayas tour packages, Antique was promoted as an adventure destination, with Tibiao as anchor.

Visitors to Tibiao can experience the thrill of white water kayaking, canoeing and rappelling down a waterfall.



FOR MINDANAO DEV'T

The Memorandum for the Development of Mindanao is signed by officials of several organizations, including Paolo Prieto (extreme right), president of Inq7.net and member of the INQUIRER board of directors, in Mandaluyong City. With Prieto are (from left) Ambassador Howard Dee, co-chair of the Tabang Mindanaw, Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette, National Economic and Development Authority deputy director general Augusto Santos and Fernando Zobel de Ayala, co-chair of the Tabang Mindanaw.

Estrada in 'win-win-win' situation, says prelate

DAGUPAN CITY—Whether he is proven innocent or guilty in the plunder and other cases he is facing, ousted President Joseph Estrada is in a "win-win-win" situation, according to Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan.

Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said Estrada's "winning streak" started when he dismissed all his lawyers and refused to accept all the lawyers assigned by the government.

"He gained the sympathy of his people. Filipinos like to side with those they perceive as aggrieved and helpless. If found guilty and convicted, he would still conquer the hearts of the people as someone unjustly treated by our justice system. He wins," Cruz, known for his critical statements on Estrada, said.

"In the event that he was proven innocent, then he would be vindicated. He wins. But if he were proven guilty, he could say that he had fought the best fight. He wins."

Cruz, however, belittled Estrada's plan to bring his case to the foreign media which might favor his cause because the foreign media "might not have that much bearing in the trial of a citizen of the Philippines accused before a Philippine court for allegedly violating Philippine laws."

"For how long could this (be) sustained? How much benefit would it bring (to) his cause? How really relevant would it be to his case?" Cruz asked. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Life terms, not death, for three murder convicts

By Vincent Cabreza and Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Supreme Court has reduced three death sentences of murder convicts, including a child murderer, to life imprisonment.

One of the convicts—for a 1985 murder case—escaped death on a technicality because his trial was covered by a suspension of death sentences when the 1987 Constitution limited all capital punishment retroactively.

The court has also sentenced five other murder convicts and the convicted rapist of a 10-year-old girl from Cagayan de Oro City to life imprisonment.

On Wednesday, the court's third division acquitted a person accused of murder who had been serving time for nearly six years.

The court's second division, on the same day here, downgraded the life sentence of a convicted murderer to a maximum sentence of 14 years, after reducing his murder conviction to a homicide conviction.

In an en banc decision on April 2, the Supreme Court reduced the death sentence of Donato Cruz, a self-confessed drug addict who admitted killing Laura Robles and her 5-year-old daughter Mary Lauren on Sept. 12, 1996 in Pasig City.

In a ruling penned by Associate Justice Jose Melo, the court noted that the death of Mary Lauren was an act of treachery whose "imposable penalty" would be life imprisonment to death.

'Treachery'

"Well settled is the rule that the killing by an adult of a minor child is treacherous. Treachery, in turn, qualified the killing of (Mary Lauren) to murder . . . Since the aggravating circumstance of 'abuse of superior strength' is deemed absorbed in treachery, there would no longer be any aggravating or mitigating circumstance present in the murder of (Mary Lauren) Robles," the decision said.

Melo also pointed out that Cruz made an "extrajudicial confession" before Pasig prosecutors.

In another en banc ruling, the justices sentenced Constable Second Class Rodney Dumalahay of Camp Alagar in Cagayan de Oro City to life imprisonment for the murder of Geronimo Lagayon and Antonio Escalante, both his clients in a 1985 gunrunning deal.

In a decision signed by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, the court noted that this trial was caught in between the proscription of the death penalty by the 1987 Constitution and the reinstatement of capital punishment when Republic Act 7659 or the death penalty law took effect on Jan. 1, 1994.

"Notwithstanding the attendance of these aggravating circumstances, the death penalty cannot be imposed on (the accused). It is true the dual killings were committed on Dec. 18, 1985, before the suspension of the death penalty... However, the case at bar was decided... on Oct. 7, 1997. The accused cannot be faulted for the delay in the disposition of the cases against (him)," Santiago wrote.

The court's third en banc decision spared Mamerto Obosa of Caloocan City from the death penalty for stabbing and killing Leonarda Lora in 1995.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, the court noted that the absence of qualified and aggravated circumstantial evidence does not warrant a death sentence.

Acquitted

In another case, the Supreme Court's third division acquitted Jonathan Fabros, who had been serving six years in prison for the murder of Hernan Sagario on Feb. 28, 1996.

The court noted that the prosecution "failed to prove the existence of conspiracy beyond reasonable doubt (in Sagario's murder), nor was (the prosecution) able to show that (Fabros) was an accomplice or an accessory."

The third division also convicted Benny Conde to six counts of life imprisonment for the rape of a 10-year-old neighbor in Cagayan de Oro City between April 1997 and January 1998.

The first division, led by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., affirmed on Monday the life sentences of Ericto Appegu and brothers Anselmo and Romeo Gamueda, for the Oct. 4, 1993 hacking and killing of Rose Binua in Abulug, Cagayan.

The first division also affirmed the life sentences of Cornelio and Manuel Gelin, both members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit in Eastern Samar, who killed their cousin, Dionisio, on Feb. 10, 1991, over a land dispute.

On Wednesday, the third division downgraded the murder conviction of Jonathan Anacan of Manila to a homicide conviction in the April 13, 1997 murder of Henry Villanueva during a bar brawl.

Tacloban City mayor says he has no Swiss accounts

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—"I have no Swiss accounts."

Thus declared Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez in reaction to a recent report that named him one of the cronies of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, whose Swiss bank deposits were unfrozen by a Swiss court.

Romualdez said he was surprised when he read in the INQUIRER that he was listed as having a dollar deposit amounting to $979,000 in a Swiss bank.

"I was really so surprised when I learned about it. The fact is, I don't have any Swiss deposit and, for that matter, international accounts in any bank outside the country," he said last Thursday.

Romualdez challenged anybody who could prove that he owns a Swiss account. "If they could prove that the dollar deposit is in my account and in my name, then I will sign it (away) and gave it to them," he said.

"(I) would be happy if I really own that kind of dollar deposit. That's a big amount," the mayor added in jest.

Romualdez said all his deposits were placed in local banks. But he declined to say if these deposits included a dollar account.

Romualdez said it was also possible that his name did appear as owner of a Swiss bank account because "maybe, somebody just used my name."

But he declined to say who could have used his name.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, which has been going after foreign deposits believed to be part of Marcos' alleged ill-gotten wealth, has filed forfeiture cases against Romualdez, Geronimo Velasco, Carmencita de Borja Clavecilla, Fe Roa and Ignacio Gimenez.

Their combined Swiss bank accounts were reportedly worth at least $20 million.

Romualdez, younger brother of former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, said he did not know any of the four.

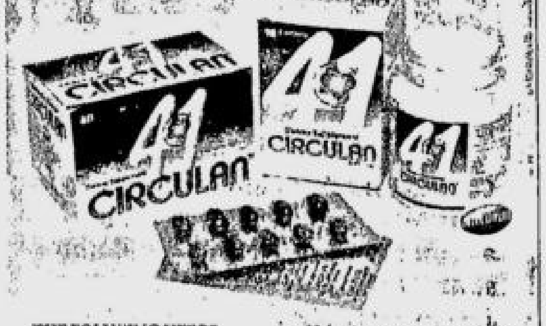
"I only know them by name," he said. He did not elaborate.

Romualdez said he has remained unfazed by the string of graft cases that he and other members of his family are facing before the Sandiganbayan, involving alleged ill-gotten properties.

He said the recent acquittal of his elder sister by the Sandiganbayan was "a vindication for the family."

Romualdez said all the graft cases filed against them would eventually be decided in their favor.

"It seems that (Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis) Garchitorena is now realizing that all these cases were without any basis," Romualdez said.



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INQUIRER*Mindanao*
Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ *Bureau Chief* **Nico A. Alconaba**

The tarsiers of Sarangani

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
Malungon, Sarangani

Who would expect that the endangered tarsiers (*Tarsius Syrichta*), the world's smallest primates, are also found in Sarangani? Even this writer refused to believe when word about the discovery of tarsiers in the province began to spread like a prairie fire.

Every time I heard news or talk about the tarsiers, what immediately came to my mind was Bohol, an island-province in the Visayas where the Chocolate Hills is also found. In fact, the tarsier has become synonymous with Bohol.

Now that belief is drastically changed. Tarsiers are no longer Bohol's monopoly.

I saw a pair of tarsiers in the house of Junjun Constantino, a plant enthusiast and younger brother of Sarangani Vice Gov. Felipe Constantino, last Thursday morning.

At noon of the same day, during a visit to Sitio Ariston in Barangay Poblacion, I saw another in the possession of Dionisio Sanama, a B'laan native.

The mammal's body was brownish and measured four and a half inches long. Its tail is 10 inches long.

Back to the wild

Sanama narrated that just last month, he was able to catch three tarsiers hiding in bamboo shoots near his house. He, however, released the tarsiers back to the wild after he noticed that they refused to eat.

On March 27, Junjun Constantino asked his friend Tinong Lagsila, also a B'laan resident of nearby Sitio Ariston, to bring a pair of tarsiers to his house to prove to everyone that the creatures are endemic to Sarangani.

A week after, Lagsila went back to Constantino's house in Riverside Buayan, carrying a pair of tarsiers.

Lagsila, now in his late 40s, claimed he first saw tarsiers when he was still a small boy. *Mal* is the indigenous peoples' term for the Philippine Tarsier.

Bernard Decir, a houseboy of Constantino, said "the smaller one is a female. We saw them hugging and kissing each other every morning."

Guiseppe Chiew, a biologist, confirmed that those were indeed tarsiers.

But the animals are not only found in Malungon but also in six other towns of the province.

Other witnesses surfaced when they saw photographs of the Philippine Tarsier.

'Bad luck'

Provincial information chief Serafin Ramos disclosed that old-time residents of the six other towns have spoken about their own encounters with the tarsiers.

The natives, in the past, never dare to catch or make direct eye contact with the tarsier.

"Our elders reminded us not to catch or take *mal* as pet. It is forbidden. We were even told not to look straight into its eyes because seeing its tears fall could mean an accident or death," Perido Kusin, a T'boli resident of Maitum, said.

For years, this belief somehow helped preserve the tarsiers in the province.

But, lately, poverty and hunger left the *lumads* with no other option but hunt tarsiers as an alternative source of livelihood. They are not aware of the law protecting the animal.

What law?

When told about Presidential Proclamation 1030, which declared tarsiers a protected species, they just grinned. They didn't care.

Ising Wangay, a B'laan resident of Sitio Ariston, claimed that easing the excruciating pain of their empty stomach comes first. Preserving a wild animal from extinction is the least of their concern, he said.

What matters most to him, he said, is to earn a little money so he can buy food for his family.

He disclosed that a certain Monic, allegedly a Protestant pastor, went to Sitio Ariston several months ago to buy tarsiers.

Monic, Wangay said, had a buyer from abroad who wanted to buy as many as 40 tarsiers. Wangay said the buyers believe that tarsier bones have medicinal value.

Indeed, tarsier hunting has become a lucrative source of income for some B'laans.

JUN RAMOS/SARANGANI PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE

A TARSIER is held in captivity as a pet by Dionisio Sanama, a B'laan resident of Sitio Ariston, Barangay Poblacion in Malungon, Sarangani.

Wangay even told us not to worry as there are still plenty of tarsiers in the area.

Businessman Christopher Arenso of General Santos City was able to buy a tarsier at P2,000.

Omar Oman, a B'laan residing in far-flung Barangay Datal Batong, said Arenso asked him to bring "a small monkey with bulging eyes."

Arenso, Oman bared, was apparently setting up his own mini-zoo. Several wild animals can be seen in his compound along the road leading to the district hospital.

But Arenso disputed Oman's claim, saying "he (Oman) just brought that animal here. So we just bought it."

"I used to hunt pythons and parrots. But *mal* can be sold at a much higher price than other wild animals," Oman said.

Tarsier life

Carissa Kubicek of the University of Michigan described the Philippine Tarsier as a small brownish or grayish mammal. Their colors vary, depending on the region in the Philippines where they are found.

Basically omnivorous, tarsiers feed on insects, lizards and small birds.

Their goggle eyes, Kubicek said, are the largest among mammals. Their heads can be rotated 180 degrees. They live in tall grasses, bushes, bamboo shoots and small trees in tropical rainforests.

Tarsiers rarely live long in captivity. The longest recorded time a Philippine tarsier has lived in captivity is 12 years.

Due to trauma during captivity, tarsiers commit suicide by banging their heads against their cages.

In an effort to protect and preserve the tarsiers, Gov. Mike Escobar said he would ask the provincial board to pass a legislation declaring Sarangani a protected area.

Officials are worried that the onset of the El Niño weather phenomenon and the eventual shortage in food supply will result in the massive hunting of tarsiers.

In some parts of Malungon, like in Sitio Ariston, crops are dying due to drought. The natives have no other livelihood, except farming.

A baby named Tarsius Rex

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—One of the two tarsiers (*Tarsius syrichta*) caught in the forests of Sarangani gave birth on Saturday, nine days after the endangered animals were captured.

Guillermo Constantino Jr., vice president of the Malungon Tourism Council, said the baby tarsier was born at around 6 a.m. to one of the tarsiers caught by Tinong Lagsila, a B'laan.

It was not yet determined whether the baby tarsier is a male or a female because examining it might be stressful for the new-born, according to Constantino.

Shortly after reports that tarsiers were seen in Malungon, Constantino requested Lagsila to catch one. But instead of one animal, Lagsila brought a pair, one of which was pregnant.

Constantino said tourism officials, including Gov. Mike Escobar, at first doubted claims that the primates live in the province. They were eventually convinced when they saw tarsiers kept in a cage at his home in Riverside Buayan, Malungon.

Trying to protect it from harm, the mother tarsier held its baby tightly to her bosom.

The baby tarsier's head is slightly bigger than a P5 peso coin and its body fully covered with brown fur. Its two huge eyes were wide open.

"I heard the mother squeak during her labor. I saw how the mother cut off the umbilical cord using its teeth, then licked its baby's fur until it dried up," Constantino said.

He named the young tarsier "Tarsius Rex," after Rex Godinez-Ortega, son of INQUIRER correspondent Christine Godinez-Ortega of Iligan City.

Rex, who is also a former INQUIRER correspondent, arrived at Constantino's house a few minutes after the primate gave birth. He was in Sarangani to do a research on the tarsiers.

Constantino said about a thousand tarsiers inhabit the jungles of Malungon. This could prove that the primates are endemic to the province, he said.

"I saw lots of them when I was still a small boy. My mom, now in her early 90s, also told me that she saw tarsiers even when she was still a young girl," Constantino said.

The Constantinos are pioneer residents of Malungon. The late Guillermo Sr., an Ilonggo, was one of the town's founders. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio***

Maughan's destructive floods: Nature on warpath

By Maria Cecil B. Laguardia
T'boli, South Cotabato

IT was unbelievably melancholic. What was once a 12-meter creek is now a 300-square-meter wasteland, with huge boulders, uprooted trees and steep landslides.

In one spot, "*may ara diri sang-una nga* fishpond *kag* piggery (before there was a fishpond and a piggery here)," recalled Leodegario Torbolento, a dump truck driver in T'boli, South Cotabato.

Even the backyard of the village checkpoint was reduced to several square meters of desolate field after the flood.

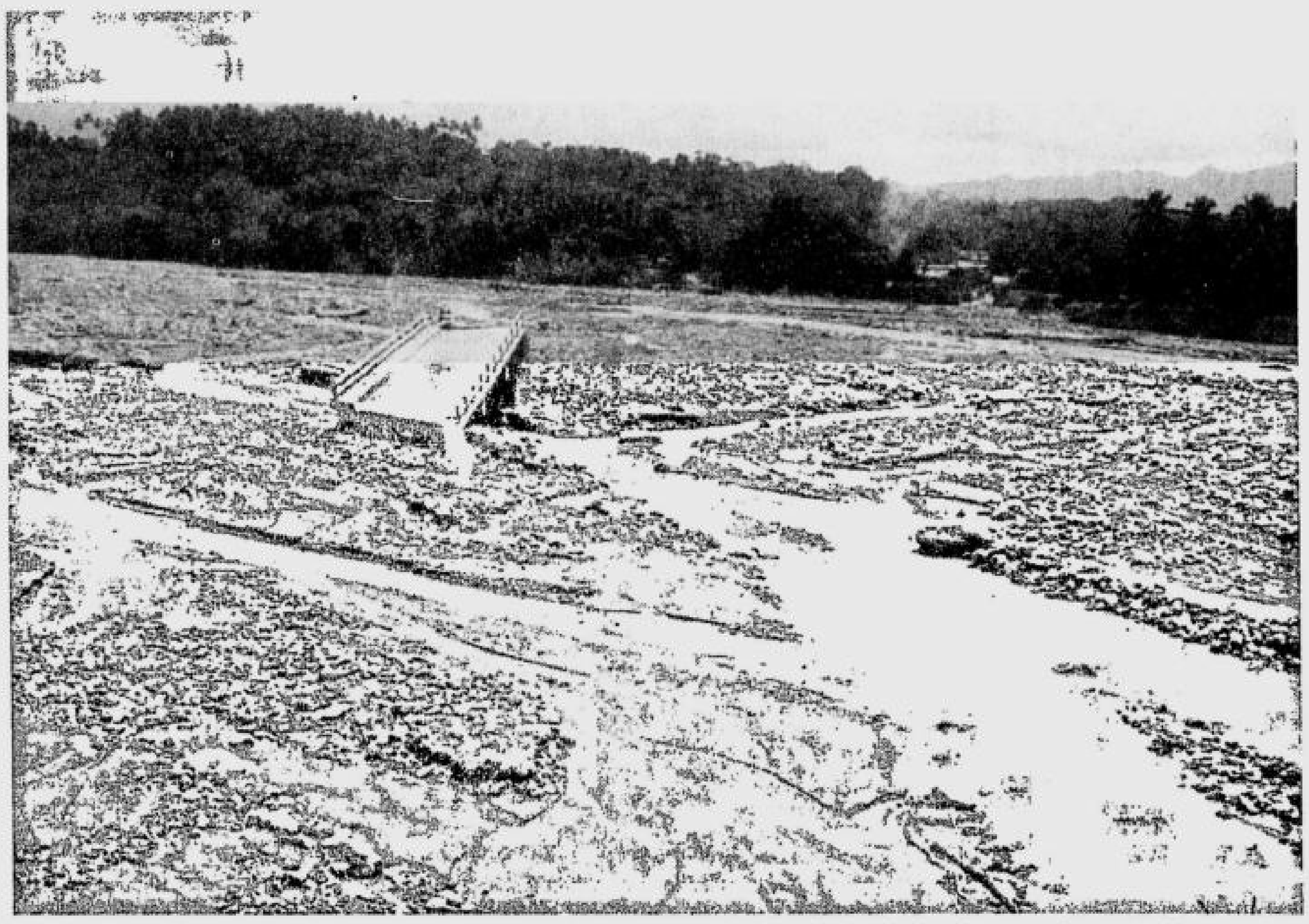
On March 6, at least three hours after an earthquake shook most parts of Mindanao, the debris-holding dam in Lake Maughan broke and let loose some 30 million cubic feet of water.

The floodwaters passed through villages in T'boli, Surallah, Sto. Niño and other municipalities of South Cotabato, and even reached Sultan Kudarat province.

The huge devastation notwithstanding, there were no human casualties. Thanks to the T'boli's team that stood on a 24-hour watch at the lake and immediately advised people living on the banks to evacuate to avoid the impending flood.

Mayor Sarsi Atam immediately sent men to ensure the safety of his constituents.

Torbolento recalled how the flood raged like exploding bombs in broad daylight. The thunder, they found out, were caused by huge boulders rampaging and crushing everything on their path. One could not imagine how a human being could survive such fury.



THE ONCE mighty bridge that connects Barangay New Dumangas in T'boli, South Cotabato, to the rest of the world looks solitary and useless.

MA. CECIL LAGUARDIA

Five villages in T'boli were isolated for four days, with the residents getting their food supply by helicopter. The price of rice shot up to P50 per kilo, along with those of other basic necessities, forcing most residents in far-flung sitios to eat *camote* (sweet potato), *saging* (banana) and *balinghoy* (cassava).

The villages are connected by a 12-meter bridge over the Ga-ao Creek in New Dumangas to other barangays. The bridge has been wiped out completely; only its concrete slabs remain.

To transport rice or corn products, people have to shell out at least P50 for hauling, excluding the one-way passenger fare of P40, up from P20, to T'boli town. Their already difficult existence, judging from the craggy roads that even seasoned walking feet would detest, has become doubly miserable.

Torbolento said things have changed since several contract growers of T'boli-Agro Industrial Development Inc. (Tadi), a local pineapple company, reverted to traditional farming. The roads, which Tadi used to maintain, are now disfigured with huge cracks and ditches.

Barangay leader Willy Man of Sitio Lub said people got frightened during the earthquake and ran in different directions, not knowing what to do.

A community of 102 T'boli families rushed to a towering cliff overlooking Barangay Tabudtud to witness the flood from the lake. Their village's multi-purpose center nearly lost a wall.

Due to the limited supply of relief goods, Sitio Lub received only one sack of rice from the local government. The rice was shared at two cans per family, which was not even enough for one meal to a family of five.

Blahing Emen, 60, a laborer in Sitio Toril, pointed at a crack in the ground just below their house that extended down to the precipice in their backyard.

He said he, his wife Virginia and their four kids—Alex, Jaime, Nicolas and Junior—decided not to sleep at their house for two nights for fear that the earth would again open and gobble up their house. They set up a tent made of sacks and spent the nights there.

Hopefully, things will return to normal soon—until the next flood comes along, which is very likely, as nothing has been figured out yet on what to do with the problem of water accumulating at the Maughan crater.

The farmers' problems are not yet over.

The Allah River Irrigation System was temporarily shut down as floodwater could damage irrigation canals and farms if released. The supply of irrigation water to rice fields could be resumed only after three months.

Combine that with the forecast of El Niño, a weather aberration characterized by a long dry season, and you have a double whammy unleashed to further torment the farmers.

In the meantime, the 24-hour watch continues over the lake and Mt. Parker, amid recent signs of volcanic activity.

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Mission school sends Manobo children into mainstream

By Rosa-May V. de Guzman
Matalam, Cotabato

RIDICULED, marginalized and even isolated, the Manobo got by in the past with very little interaction with other Filipinos.

Although romanticized in Philippine history as the first people to establish community on the island, the Manobo received the least attention among the indigenous communities in Cotabato where they number 167,991.

Claims on ancestral domain issues remain at the center of their struggle against Christian settlers, who allegedly paid them eggs and sardines for their vast land.

Now living in the mountainous parts of the province, the National Commission on Indigenous People said the 27,998 Manobo families are continuously exploited, harassed and despised as dirty primitives.

Relying primarily on traditional farming for their livelihood, the Manobo earns an income of P60 per day, which hardly guarantees three square meals a day.

"Hunger has become endemic to every Manobo," Edtami Mansayagan, a commissioner of the NCIP, said.

This poverty even drove their children away from school.

Besides, in the public school were Manobo children are enrolled, they are often bullied by Christian classmates and completely ignored or openly despised by teachers.

Mansayagan remembered how his classmate poked fun at him. "*Inapi talaga ako* (I was really oppressed)," he stressed.

That incident made him stronger and "that challenged me to pursue my dreams of becoming a professional," Mansayagan said.

Hopes for the Manobo children started to shine in the summer of 1993 when Fr. Michel Lenzen of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate was assigned in Barangay Sta. Catalina in President Roxas town.

Lenzen, a former missionary in Zaire, saw how the natives suffered from the lack of government service. He sought help from the Oblates and former Bishop of Kidapawan Juan de Dios Pueblos.

In 1994, Lenzen formally started the Pangipasan Mission Center in the far-flung neighborhood of Pangipasan in Matalam, addressing not just the health and socioeconomic needs of the Manobos but also the education of their children.

It was in school year 1998-1999 when formal education was provided the Manobo children. The Department of Education (DepEd) and the OMI initiated the Pangipasan Mission School.

True, there was a nearby school, but the Kimarang Elementary School was long closed because of low enrolment.

Tailor-made

At first, the Pangipasan Mission School, manned by two teachers, had only two classes—for Grades 1 and 2. The next school year, a Grade 3 class was added.

For 2000-01, the school offers courses up to Grade 5.

Today, Fr. Zaldy Orola, mission director, is pushing for a Grade 6 curriculum. He hopes the DepEd will fully accredit the school for the subjects it offers.

Although the standard DepEd curriculum for elementary level is being used, it has to be made more culture-sensitive, meaningful and helpful to the Manobo.

Teachers used as education tools objects found in the child's environment. They incorporated Manobo legends, stories, riddles, songs and games and the importance of agriculture in their lesson plans.

Michael Angeles and Christy Taupan, both 11 and in Grade 3, learned their ABCs at the Mission School.

Christy dreams of becoming a teacher while Michael, whose parents were killed when he was 4 years old, said, "I will join the military to bring justice to my parents."

Aida Salembang, 16 and in Grade 5, believes that no one is born ignorant. She, too, wants to become a teacher.

"It's not too late to get an education," she said.

And growing

In a study, Renato Alfonso and Mario Vargas of Pro-Team Services Inc. based in Davao City said the Pangipasan Mission School has helped the Manobos achieve immense growth.

"The mission school is offering quality education compared to other rural schools. The students practically learned to be self-reliant and help build their own community," the duo said.

Now, the center employs 11 staff members, including three regular teachers, one staff head and agriculturists.

Paterno Magpangcal, Pangipasan village leader, also has high hopes for his people getting education.

"We will all succeed, especially the young generation," he said.

To attract more pupils, the mission school has started offering scholarship grants to Manobo children. After graduation, they are expected to serve their fellow Manobos.

"We all have one vision: to give the Manobo what is due them. We will continue serving them, despite the odds. In God we trust," Orola said.

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Israel defies US, presses offensive

NABLUS, West Bank—Heavy fighting erupted in the northern West Bank on Saturday as Israel pushed ahead with a military offensive, undimmed by a United States call for a withdrawal of its armor and troops from Palestinian areas.

Two days before the arrival of a new US peace mission by Secretary of State Colin Powell, troops moved into the town of Qabatia and fought fierce gun battles with Palestinians in refugee camps in and around nearby Jenin and also in Nablus, Palestinian residents reported.

In Jerusalem, top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told Reuters that Palestinian officials would not meet Powell during his visit if he refused to meet besieged Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer had told reporters on Friday that Powell had no plans "at this moment" to meet Arafat.

Powell said there were no plans at present but that did not mean there would be no such plans "in due course."

Erakat meanwhile told CNN on Saturday that all contact had been lost with Arafat, who is pinned down by Israeli troops in his Ramallah headquarters for the past nine days since Israeli troops launched a vast offensive in the West Bank.

Earlier, Palestinian sources said the Israeli army had cut the electricity supply to Arafat's offices.

Arafat had informed the Palestinian information chief in Gaza, General Amin al-Hindi, of the "disturbing" development via walkie-talkie, the sources said.

Arafat also told Hindi that Israeli soldiers had not allowed supplies to reach his offices on Friday.

Explosives distributed

In Jenin, a local Hamas leader said Palestinian militant factions had banded together and handed out explosives belts to residents of the refugee camp under siege.

"Nobody works as Fatah or Hamas, everybody works together," said Jamal Abu al-Haija. "All the factions have distributed explosive belts and hand grenades to the people of the camp to defend themselves."

He said a Palestinian woman, Ilham Dosuki, blew herself up on Saturday when soldiers approached the door to her home in the camp, also killing or injuring some of the soldiers.

In a separate incident, he said, Israeli tank fire killed three Palestinian policemen in a camp alley.

Israeli forces meanwhile continued to surround the Balata refugee camp in Nablus.

At a camp in Jenin, residents said Israeli helicopter gunships targeting anything that moved were keeping them and Palestinian gunmen pinned inside houses. Residents were confined to their homes and received information by keeping in touch on mobile telephones.

The Israeli military didn't immediately comment on the report about the woman blowing herself up, but reported a somewhat similar situation in the area. The army said Israeli troops fired on a Palestinian man early Saturday in Jenin who had explosives strapped to his body, causing a blast that killed only the man.

On Friday, two Israeli soldiers died during fighting in Jenin and another was seriously wounded, according to the army.

Mohammed Abu Ghali, director of the Jenin government hospital, said Israeli tanks were not allowing ambulances to evacuate the dead and wounded from the camp.

The Israeli military also said four Palestinians were shot dead on Saturday at the Askar refugee camp near Nablus—the West Bank's biggest city—as they were placing explosives on the road to the camp.

Palestinian militants reported that hours earlier, a 22-year-old militant blew himself up after charging into a Nablus field occupied by Israeli soldiers. They claimed four Israelis were injured or killed in the assault, but the Israeli army denied any such attack had occurred.

Tanks outside Hebron

Since launching its military campaign, Israeli forces have captured six major West Bank cities and towns.

Hebron and Jericho were the only key cities where Palestinian authority hadn't been eclipsed.

But a half-dozen Israeli tanks watched over each of the northern and southern entrances to Hebron.

Palestinian security officials said Israeli forces entered Yatta town, just south of Hebron, before dawn on Saturday, but withdrew about four hours later after heavy exchanges of fire.

The hunt for militants left two militia leaders dead on Friday, including Qeis Odwan, believed responsible for masterminding a Passover suicide bombing on March 27 that killed 26 people and triggered the Israeli incursions into the West Bank.

Tanks and helicopter gunships pounded Odwan's hideout in Tubas, killing him and five other gunmen, witnesses said. ***Reports from Reuters, AFP and AP***

Terror in the Holy Land

From page A1

Franciscan order, had said earlier that the monks trapped in the church would stay in the building to try to prevent a bloodbath between Palestinians and Israelis.

Bini said he had made a worldwide appeal for support and had written to US President George W. Bush asking him to intervene for peace.

"Don't abandon us, but help us. Help us, not primarily to save the friars, but to save peace. Help us to save the innocent women and children," he had said.

Custodians

The Rev. Gianfranco Pinto Ostune of the Franciscan press office in Rome said the clergy inside the Church of the Nativity wanted to stay put to safeguard one of Christianity's holiest shrines.

"We are custodians of these places," he said.

"There are stones there that were trod on by Christ," he said.

Israeli forces prevented reporters from getting close to the fourth-century stone church.

The standoff began on Tuesday, when Palestinian fighters (residents said they were Palestinian policemen), who for hours had been engaged in heavy gun battles with advancing Israeli troops, dashed a few dangerous steps from the Palace Hotel to the church.

Gunmen and others inside the church said that on Thursday Israeli soldiers blew open a back door leading into a small courtyard of the church and fired inside, wounding three people. The Israeli military denied the claim.

Bini told reporters in Rome that Israeli soldiers did blow open a door and fired inside the church courtyard but did not enter.

"They (Israeli soldiers) did destroy the door the same way the Palestinians destroyed a door trying to get in."

Bini said the situation inside the church was "very grave."

"The brothers have shared their food but it is now running out, and we appeal to be allowed to leave the church to go and get supplies," he said.

"Our brothers are tired psychologically and physically."

Evangelical church, too

About 400 meters from the Church of the Nativity, a Palestinian priest counted on Friday the damage at his church compound: 35 doors broken, 55 windows shattered and a crack in 19th century stained glass.

An angry Rev. Mitri Raheb said that on Thursday 45 Israeli soldiers stormed buildings of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church. He said the soldiers locked him in his office for two hours, cursed and threatened him at gunpoint as they searched offices, an artist's workshop, a guest house and a conference center.

Raheb said that as soldiers entered the church compound, an Israeli commander apologized.

"He said, 'Sorry. We know there was no firing that took place from your church.'"

The army had no comment.

Heart of Pope's pilgrimage

Bethlehem was once a popular pilgrimage town.

One of the most famous pilgrims was Pope John Paul II, who celebrated Mass in Manger Square just outside the basilica two years ago.

He called Bethlehem "the heart of my pilgrimage."

Around the city, a few people ventured cautiously into the streets as word spread that a military curfew would be lifted for two hours. People stared at their cars, flattened by tanks and left twisted like crunched soda cans along curbs. Bullets left car windows split and cracked.

Shopkeepers cleaned up damaged stores along streets full of rubble and bent-over lampposts. Tank treads gouged stone roads that were built above old asphalt roads for Millennium celebrations.

"We have only a couple of hours to find food," said Souad Kasi, 55. "We need milk and bread, but this time is not enough for bakeries to provide all the people with bread."

She raced with her 11-year-old daughter to find an open shop.

Others hurried to hospitals to claim the bodies of dead relatives and quickly bury them.

Then soldiers fired into the air to signal the curfew was back in place.

Helmeted soldiers gripping rifles patrolled and crouched along the front of houses and shops, spray-painting a green "X" on places that had been searched.

Video released by the military showed piles of rifles it said soldiers had confiscated.

At the Star Hotel, heavily armed American policemen from the US consulate, some wearing helmets and dark sunglasses and carrying M-16 rifles, evacuated foreigners from the city.

Terror in Bethlehem

At night, the rooftop of the Church of the Nativity compound is normally illuminated by a huge cross in bright lights.

These days there are also flares—fired up high to help soldiers spot the enemy.

Tracer rounds flit across the sky and the blasts of explosives used to blow open doors shatter the still of the night.

The Israelis are despised and feared.

"They terrorized us," said Bassim Khamis, holding his infant relative, as he stood inside his house.

The door of his home had been marked with an "X" by the soldiers.

"They came in here, looking for weapons. We were detained for nine hours with our hands tied before we were released," Khamis said.

Everyone is a suspect.

On Friday, Israeli soldiers in an armored troop carrier stopped Palestinian medics. They were told to disembark from their ambulance, lift up their shirts—to show they were not wearing explosive belts—and lie on the ground.

Nearby, a Palestinian man was carrying a brown plastic sack.

An Israeli soldier, rifle ready, peered at him around the corner and shouted at him to stop and show what was inside the bag.

"These are eggs colored for Easter," the man said to the Jewish soldier, taking them out one by one.

"Jesus," he tried to explain further, as he made the sign of the cross across his chest. ***Reports from Reuters, AP***

To Catholics, all sins are forgiven, if . . .

From page A1

of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to confession and receive holy communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are open all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet."

The messages call on people to trust in the mercy of God and to be more merciful to each other. People are encouraged to do works of mercy especially on that day.

Devotion to the Divine Mercy is an authentic spiritual movement within the Catholic Church promoted by St. Faustina.

A Polish religious who died at 33 in 1938, St. Faustina lived a mystical experience of consecration to Divine Mercy, a spiritual journey that included visions, revelations and hidden stigmata. At the suggestion of her spiritual director, all were recorded in her journal.

The message of mercy had touched the hearts of many simple people. Many theologians marveled to find in the writings of St. Faustina, a humble, hardly literate nun such an extraordinary depth.

The Apostles of Divine Mercy is a movement inspired by the Polish nun's experience. It embraces priests, religious and laity, united in their commitment to live mercy in relating to their brothers and sisters, to make the mystery of Divine Mercy known, and to invoke God's mercy on sinners.

This spiritual family, approved in 1996 by the Archdiocese of Krakow, at present is found in 29 countries of the world, including the Philippines.

Girl's fight raises hope for ailing kids

From page A1

and, eventually, death, normally within one year of the child's birth.

Skin and bones

Jeremaia was one year and 13 days old when she flew on March 15, 2000, to Minneapolis courtesy of Northwest Airlines with her mother, Jesselou, and her pediatrician, Dr. Cecile Melendrez.

She was skin and bones, weighing barely 5 kilos, and kept alive only by a cocktail of powerful and expensive drugs.

We feared for her life, remembering the case two years earlier of Micah Atentido, another biliary atresia baby.

Micah was also on her way to the United States, for her own transplant at the Emory University Children's Hospital in Georgia. She bled profusely during the stopover in Tokyo, forcing her parents to abort the trip and return to Manila.

But when Jesselou phoned after they arrived in Rochester 22 hours after leaving Manila, she reported that Jeremaia slept well during the flight and that nothing untoward happened.

This and other subsequent events strengthened our faith in God, to whom we prayed two months earlier to grant us the miracles to save Jeremaia.

Miracles were truly what we needed. We had no money for her surgery abroad and the more expensive post-transplant maintenance program.

There was no liver transplant program in the Philippines. And our only hope for Jeremaia's survival—the offer of Dr. Carlo Ramirez, head of the Transplant Division of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) in Quezon City, to do experimental surgery for free—went up in smoke when she failed to make the 10-kilo weight needed to ensure her survival in surgery.

Seven months after scouring the Internet and the local scene for help, and not finding it, the family gathered at home on Jan. 22, 2000, to pray.

We asked God for the miracles that Jeremaia needed to survive—a liver transplant; a hospital that would give her free treatment and medicines as well as a post-transplant maintenance program; a medical visa; airplane tickets for five; and pocket money.

We also prayed for Jeremaia's well-being as she awaited her transplant, and the well-being of the donor—in this case, our eldest daughter Hiyas—who had the same blood type.

Before we asked God for these miracles, we asked forgiveness for our sins and committed ourselves to Him. And then trusted in Him.

Answered prayers

Exactly a month later, on Feb. 22, God began answering our prayers. Around 6 a.m. I was roused from sleep by our daughter Jesselou, who told me that someone from Mayo Clinic wanted to talk to Jeremaia's grandfather.

Still groggy from sleep, I took the telephone and said, "This is Jeremaia's grandfather."

A female voice at the end of the line said, "Good evening (it was 4 p.m. in Rochester). I'm Lynn Pearson, the pediatric liver transplant coordinator of Mayo Clinic. I want to inform you that Dr. Charles Rosen, head of the Pediatric Liver Transplant Department, has OK'd Jeremaia's liver transplant at Mayo Clinic as a humanitarian case. Please arrange to have her travel to Rochester immediately."

As I heard those words, tears streamed from my eyes. And although everyone had gathered close to listen to the conversation, I shouted at the top of my voice: "Thank God! Mayo has accepted Jeremaia for free!"

My wife and our three daughters were jumping up and down with joy. (Even now, as I recall those moments, the tears still flow.)

God's blessings didn't stop there. We got three tickets from Northwest Airlines and two from Philippine Airlines, for free. Friends and strangers contributed dollars and pesos to provide the needed pocket money. And despite the difficulties of other applicants for medical visas at the US Embassy, Jeremaia got hers quickly.

On the flight to the United States, God made sure that Jeremaia had the best. She was taken to the first-class lounge at Osaka during the stopover, where the ground crew fussed over her.

The long haul to Minneapolis had, aside from Dr. Melendrez, two other pediatricians. Upon learning that the plane had a critically ill patient on board, the two would check on Jeremaia's condition from time to time.

Baby donor

Fifteen days after Jeremaia was admitted to the Mayo Clinic, lead transplant surgeon Dr. Michael Ishitani decided to jump ahead of the other liver transplant patients and do the operation.

Jeremaia was to receive a liver from an adult cadaver donor. But hours before the surgery a baby her age and blood type died and the parents donated the liver to her, giving her the perfect liver!

Three hours after the surgery the transplanted liver began producing bile, much to the satisfaction of Dr. Ishitani.

But a month later, Jeremaia contracted pneumonia, necessitating her stay in the intensive care for a month.

Thankfully, she got through this and other complications, and she was soon put under a therapeutic regimen to help her catch up with physical and mental development.

She had been bedridden for most of her life because of her swollen stomach, and suffered from malnutrition because of her body's inability to absorb nutrients. We feared that her physical and mental capabilities had been affected.

But in Jeremaia's second annual evaluation conducted early last month, the doctors were extremely pleased. The results of her blood, ultrasound, X-ray and other tests were satisfactory, and there was no sign of organ rejection.

Moreover, she has not only regained but also surpassed the physical and mental achievements of children her age. She is articulate, very sociable and courteous—saying "thank you" and "please" at the right moments—and knows how to deal with and is very comfortable with adults, having dealt with no one but adults all her life.

So perceptive is she that she has managed to wrap her aunts, Hiyas and Yasmine, who are helping Jesselou tend to her, around her little finger.

Other stories

Today, as Jeremaia frolics in the house that our daughters rent in Rochester, as she gives joy to those around her and to us halfway around the world, her story becomes no longer hers alone.

It has also become the story of other biliary atresia babies:

- Jabby Teotico, 4 years old, from Greenhills, San Juan.
- Jonathan Chio, a year-old refugee from Zamboanga City whom we met last September at the Perpetual Help Medical Center in Las Piñas.
- Gabriel Dancel, 8 months old, from Banna, Ilocos Norte.
- Darren Dematira, 5 years old, from Marikina City.
- Beatrice Faustino, 5 years old, from Moonwalk, Parañaque City.
- Nicole Andres, one and a half years old, from Marikina.
- Maria Kimala Manokan, from Cavite.

Through the dedicated work of his parents, relatives and friends, Jabby had his own successful liver transplant in February last year at the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. His surgeon was a Filipino, Dr. Vanessa de Villa.

Jonathan flew to Kaohsiung last March 19 with his family and should have undergone by now his own transplant at the same hospital, also by Dr. De Villa.

Gabriel's family is working hard to have him accepted at the Mayo Clinic. Darren, Beatrice, Nicole, Kim, and all the other biliary atresia babies we have met since Jeremaia came into our life are awaiting their own liver transplants.

Lift-Babies

With like-minded friends, doctors and families who also have biliary atresia patients, we have established Lift-Babies, or Life Through Transplants-Biliary Atresia Babies Information, Education and Support Foundation.

Jonathan is the first patient for whom the foundation, as an ad hoc measure, is trying to raise the P3 million needed for the transplant at the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital.

It is rare for medical institutions abroad to accept cases for free.

The foundation's priority is to help establish as soon as possible a liver transplant program in the country in conjunction with the NKTI, Philippine General Hospital and Philippine Children's Medical Center so that all biliary atresia babies can be given liver transplants before their health deteriorates.

NKTI executive director Dr. Enrique Ona has been very supportive, along with Doctors Ramirez and De Villa, and Dr. Germana Gregorio, Jeremaia's personal gastro-interologist/hepatologist.

The foundation's board of directors is composed of Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo, Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr., Philippine Broadcasting System Director Rafael Dante Cruz, businessman Joey Teotico, multi-awarded broadcaster Jessica Soho, Dr. Gregorio, Dr. Ramirez, Dr. Jacob Matubis and myself.

Also on the foundation's priority list is the education of the public, including the medical sector, on biliary atresia.

Too many babies are dying because parents do not know that their children have biliary atresia. Some doctors are not familiar with the disease and are not able to prescribe the right course of action immediately.

A simple and relatively inexpensive Kasai Procedure, where the liver is directly connected to the small intestine, offers biliary atresia babies an 80-percent chance to live a normal life, but only if this is done within two months of their birth.

Some doctors believe that biliary atresia babies are doomed. Over the past three years, we have met five families whose babies died for lack of proper medical care and for want of a liver transplant, and have grieved with them.

The babies—Nacre Luzarita, Matthew Bormate, Matthew David, Darren Sumacot and Felix Arvin de la Cruz—could have lived had their health been properly managed and sustained by the right care and medicine.

80 vets to retrace Death March

From page A1

Japanese assault.

Over the next 10 days, Bataan's heroic defenders, vastly weakened and emaciated, were to be forcibly marched 112 kilometers from Mariveles to the concentrations camps in Tarlac. Some 7,000 to 10,000 men died en route from malnutrition and brutality.

At least 30 of the 1942 Death March survivors, members of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines, will march side by side with 150 runners in the 20-meter "Walk with the Heroes" event that will kick off the "Ultra-Marathon," a 104-km non-competitive relay run.

The commemorative march will begin at the Death March Kilometer Post 0 marker in Mariveles, Bataan.

The late dictator Ferdinand Marcos scrapped the traditional annual commemoration of the Fall of Bataan in favor of the Battle of Bessang Pass—the scene of the long, fierce battle to breach the western defenses of the Japanese army in 1945—to promote his own alleged war exploits.

After Marcos was ousted in the first people power uprising in 1986, President Corazon Aquino restored the commemoration of the Fall of Bataan, renaming it the "Araw ng Kagitingan."

In Tuesday's reenactment, another 50 war veterans will join the runners in Pampanga for a short-distance walk ending at this city's Dambana ng Kagitingan at the railroad tracks in Barangay Sto. Niño here.

The site marks the spot where 60 years ago thousands of American and Filipino soldiers, under threat of Japanese bayonets and guns, were herded in *bagons* (cattle cars) toward the O'Donnel concentration camp in Capas, Tarlac.

The runners, to be led this year by former national Milo marathon titlists Rey Antoque and Jona Gayumba-Atienza, will carry the peace torch and the flags of the Philippines, the United States and Japan.

Paez said Safer Run started the memorial marathon at the prodding of Cuyco who "strongly hinted that another year of agony in a supposedly newly restored democracy was simply too much for them to bear."

Wrong route

The veterans also complained that the route that Max Telford, ultra-marathon runner from New Zealand, had retraced in 1985 was wrong.

They asked Paez's group to set the trail right, finding the deviation from the authentic route an act of "disrespect" for their traumatic ordeal and a distortion of history.

At various times in the past, top Filipino athletes have paid tribute to the "living heroes of Bataan" by joining the event. They include Olympic trackster Mona Sulaiman and basketball player Orly Bauzon, Antoque and Gayumba-Atienza, former Manila International Marathon queen Mila Robiso-Paje, Southeast Asian Games fencing gold medalist Lorrie Bauzon, javelin throw standout Benjie Cawicaan, ice skaters Ian Cruz and Susie Quibol, former Philippine Sports Commissioner Josie Bauzon and Philippine Basketball Association coach Joseller Guiao.

Along the route, the older and frail war veterans, many complaining of neglect by the government, sat by their verandas or asked to be brought to the roadside to witness the memorial run.

"They cry, they wave their hands. Some come to me to say thank you for being remembered, for being appreciated for their sacrifice to the country," Paez said.

"It will take more than running and walking to truly honor these heroes who fought for our freedom, but at least we're taking steps," he said.

Sixty years after the war ended, some 106,000 veterans still have pending applications for pension and other benefits at the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office.

Of an estimated 30,000 veterans in Pampanga, only 7,869 are receiving benefits from the government.

No funds for vets' pensions

The government owes World War II veterans around P15 billion in pension payments. It does not have the money to pay for it.

President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted as much during the general assembly of the VFP at the Folk Arts Theater yesterday.

She said the Veterans Affairs Office had discovered this last year while the PVAO was "cleansing" the veterans' list.

"That was the reason why the payment of pensions to the war veterans was very much delayed. I inherited P15 billion in arrears. It cannot be solved just by cleansing the list of veterans," Ms Macapagal said.

The President, who will be holding her regular Cabinet meeting at the National Shrine in Mt. Samat, Bataan, on Tuesday, said the meeting's priority agenda would be to find ways to raise P15 billion to pay for the arrears.

Retired Col. Emmanuel De Ocampo, VFP president, has been invited to attend the Cabinet meeting.

US veterans administrator coming

The President also disclosed yesterday that the visit of the secretary of the United States Veterans Administration, Anthony Principi, might bring some good news. He is scheduled to arrive on April 17 for a three-day visit.

"He will not be coming here if he has no good news for the veterans," she said.

She said she raised the matter of the Veterans Equity Rights Bill that has long been pending in the US Congress when she visited Washington last November.

The bill would grant Filipino World War II veterans the same benefits and privileges enjoyed by their US counterparts. ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

Fathers told to support spoiled adult kids

From page A1

city of Naples, where the father is still paying some 774 euros ($680) a month in maintenance to a son who is in his 30s and has a university law degree.

The son also has a trust fund worth some 250,000 euros, lives in one of the smartest parts of the city, and has turned down several job offers.

But the court ruled that the father, Giuseppe Andreoli, who is a former parliamentarian and a respected Neapolitan medic, should carry on supporting his estranged son.

"You cannot blame a young person, particularly from a well-off family, who refuses a job that does not fit his aspirations. The parents have to pay for their upkeep," said the court in a verdict handed down earlier this week.

Reuters

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Antonio, Torre sparkle

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Eugene Torre stamped their class in the knockout semifinal phase of the National Inter-Cities chess championship yesterday to lead their teams to victories and a possible dream final showdown on Sunday.

Sunday SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Karate master arriving

THE ASSOCIATION for the Advancement of Karatedo (AAK) announced that Japanese karate master Hidehisa Haseme (8th dan) will arrive on April 7 to conduct kata clinics to Team Philippines at the various AAK branches.

MBA opener: Eagles down Amigos, 93-82

GAMES TODAY: Olongapo Convention Center
1 p.m.—Pampanga vs Negros
3 p.m.—Batangas vs Olongapo

By Roy Luarca

CEBU CITY—The Professional Davao Eagles are ready to fly high in the MBA First Conference.

Parading a taller, bigger and deeper roster than in the previous years, the Eagles bested the Cagayan de Oro Amigos, 93-82, yesterday, ushering the league's fifth season at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Returnees Bong Marata, Peter Simon and Genesis Sasuman combined well with recruits Billy Mamaril, Glenn Peter Yap and Jon Dan Salvador as the Eagles warded off the Amigos with balanced scoring in the second half.

In the second game, Cebuana Lhuillier beat Osaka Pangasinan, 109-99, in overtime.

The 6-foot-3 Yap fired 16 points, including a triple, for the season's first basket. Sasuman chipped in 15, while Mamaril and Simon added 14 each for the Amigos, who are now being handled by Bong Go.

It was the 6-foot-6 Mamaril, son of former PBA player Romy Mamaril, who caught the attention of the capacity crowd with his strong inside play and defensive savvy as he swatted away five attempts by the Amigos.

Marata, on the other hand, again displayed his virtuosity with 11 points, 10 rebounds, two assists and three steals as the Eagles surged ahead, 86-82, with only 4:30 seconds to go.

"The veterans and the newcomers have jelled. They complemented one another," said Go, adding that they would take it one step at a time. The Eagles, being supported by The Professional Group, hinted of things to come when they blitzed the Amigos, with a 20-2 start.

The Amigos, however, patiently worked their way up behind the guns of Ernani Epondulan and even led at 27-26 on a Blitz 3 by the former Jose Rizal University star and NCAA MVP.

Scores:

DAVAO 93—Yap 16, Sasuman 15, Simon 14, Mamaril 14, Montalbo 11, Marata 11, Salvador 8, Manigo 4, Daja 0, Caliao 0, Menor 0, Concha o.

CAGAYAN DE ORO 82—Epondulan 17, Naron 13, Sanz 10, Lopez 9, Bughao 9, Capus 6, Manucat 6, Buenaventura 4, Manuel 4, Calimag 2, Pimentel 2, Bravo 0.

Quarters: 24-20, 49-48, 71-65, 93-82.

Eagle Ridge Invt'l lures big field

WITH the registry fast approaching the expected 200-team mark, the organizing committee of the second Eagle Ridge Invitational golf tournament is keeping its focus on putting the Faldo and Dye courses in their best possible shape for the event set April 19-21.

The two courses with very distinct characters will put the field of about 400 players into a test of consistency and patience as they try to survive dreadful hazards, uneven lies and fast greens not to mention the winds that can toughen conditions in an instant.

"The conditions will be friendly but it's always who hits the ball well who wins anyway. Eagle courses often puts premium on accurate hitting," said engineer Winnie Gob who heads the organizing committee.

The entry fee for the member-guest event of the country's biggest golf complex is already inclusive of a raffle ticket for a Ford Lynx and more than half a million in other prizes during the awardings on April 21. For inquiries please call 046-4192841 (look for Gwyne) or fax to 046-4192843.

Major sponsors for the event are Readycon, Unirock, GG&A Club Development, Golforce Inc. and Kart Plaza Manufacturing. Hole sponsors are Citibank, Club Consultancy, Mandarin Oriental and Microtel.

The event will also give members the chance to update themselves with the developments at Eagle Ridge, the flagship golf and residential development project of Sta. Lucia Realty with joint venture partner Alsons Land Corp. which is set to open its main golf clubhouse next month.

Playability rounds for the first nine holes of the Greg Norman course which will put Eagle's sprawling 72-hole, three-clubhouse package closer to completion are also set for next month.

Meanwhile, Ramir Encabo won the low net title for the second straight time while Hector Miole took the low gross plum in the members monthly tournament for March sponsored by Mizuno/Master Sports.

Rotary meet set April 18-19

THE ROTARY Corporate Challenge, organized by the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGGFP) and hosted by Rotary Club of Angeles Centro, goes into full swing at Mimosa on April 18-19 with Adidas Taylor Made as major backer.

The solid support of Laus Group of Companies and Casino Filipino-Mimosa and the big boost provided by Clark Development Corporation through its president and CEO Dr. Emmanuel Y. Angeles, the host committee headed by Jun Zingalaoa and co-chaired by RC-Angeles Centro president Joey Mendez, should ensure the success of the tourney.

Aside from the generous sponsorship of merchandise, Adidas Taylor Made will be holding its Demo Tour 2002 on April 17-19 at the Mimosa driving range. All tournament participants who register may try out the new product line of Taylor Made.

Demo tour registrants will also receive special items, a chance to join the first Taylor Made Invitational golf in December and also insightful swing analysis and custom-fitting suggestions by the official Taylor Made pro Buddy de Joya.

Laus Group chair-CEO Levi Laus confirmed the hole-in-one prizes at stake on April 18 of an Opel Astra station wagon sponsored by GM Auto World Pampanga. On April 19, a 2002 Ford Lynx Ghia courtesy of Ford Pampanga will be up for grabs.

Casino Filipino-Mimosa branch manager Fidel B. Fuentes will host the awards dinner on April 19 and will provide the venue for the welcome cocktails on April 18.

Other sponsors are Asahi Glass, PLDT, General Nutrition Center and Philippine Wine Merchants, Hurricane rain gear and Holiday Inn.

Interested corporate teams or Rotary clubs may call Pancho Perea or Erica Pekson of the RGFFP Secretariat at tel. no. 721-8896 or 7210564 (local 31). Fax. No. is 721-8896.

Elkington shares lead

DULUTH, Georgia—Steve Elkington hasn't forgotten how it feels to win. He's in position to experience it again.

Elkington, whose last victory on the PGA Tour came in 1999, was 11-under par and tied for the lead with Phil Mickelson at the midway point of the BellSouth Classic on Friday.

TENNIS CHAMP

Qualifier Robert Smeets of Australia slams a shot to third seed Chris Kwon of the United States during their final duel in the boys' singles of the 13th Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Championships yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Smeets won, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. In the girls' singles final, top seed Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan subdued compatriot and 8th seed Chan Chin-wei, 6-1, 6-3, to retain the title.

JESS YUSON

Pinoy netters post 2-1 margin over Kuwaitis

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE PHILIPPINES gained a crucial victory yesterday as the tandem of Johnny Arcilla and Adelo Abadia repulsed Kuwait's Mohammad Al-Ghareeb and Husain Al-Ashwak, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1, to move within a win of ruling their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania tie at the Philippine Columbian Association courts here.

Things looked gloom when the Philippines faltered in the second set, but Arcilla and Abadia displayed big fighting hearts which took the fight out of the Kuwaitis.

Thus, the Philippines posted a 2-1 lead, after splitting the opening singles.

Top-ranked Arcilla aims to give the Philippines the clinching win and a secured Group II position when he tackles Al-Ghareeb in today's reverse singles at 1 p.m. It will be followed by the Abadia-Mozaad Al-Jazzaf encounter.

"We're determined not to lose this one," said the 22-year-old Arcilla, who gave the Philippines a 1-0 lead by beating Al-Jazzaf in the first singles last Friday.

Filipino tennis fans, who braved the searing heat, erupted in cheers as Kuwait simply collapsed in the fourth set. Obviously peeved, the locals also jeered a contingent of Filipinas from a placement agency, who for the second straight day cheered lustily for the visitors while waving Kuwaiti flags and wearing shirts emblazoned with Kuwait.

Arcilla and Abadia weren't uncomfortable but simply determined to pull through, knowing that losing the doubles would mean disaster.

Gin trips Hapee; Pals prevail anew

TEAMS	W	L
Talk N Text	7	1
Purefoods	7	2
Coca-Cola	6	3
Red Bull	5	3
FedEx	5	4
San Miguel	4	4
Sta. Lucia	4	4
Hapee-RP	4	5
Alaska	4	5
Selecta-RP	3	6
Ginebra	2	7
Shell	1	8

GAMES TODAY: Araneta Coliseum
4 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Selecta-RP
6 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel

By June Navarro

BARANGAY Ginebra pummeled Hapee-RP Team, 75-69, to stay in the hunt for a quarterfinals seat last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Jarrod Gee posted a double-double, while Bryan Green came alive in the stretch by pouring 13 of his game-high 21 points as the Kings chalked up the win to halt a six-game skid.

The Kings raised their mark to 2-7, while Hapee-RP tumbled to its third consecutive defeat for a 4-5 record, putting their quarterfinals bid in peril.

Gee patrolled the lanes with authority and dominated the entire Hapee-RP frontline in the shaded area to finish with 18 points, 19 rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Vergel Meneses also had a remarkable time as he chipped in 15 points—six of them in the final five minutes—to more than make up for the absence of Jun Limpot, who came in plainclothes after suffering a leg injury recently.

"It was a stroke of luck. Green and Vergel (Meneses) just turned things around for us in the last quarter," said interim Barangay Ginebra head coach Cris Calilan.

His frame of mind probably still on a holiday, the 6-foot-4 Green was a shameful sight in the first 20 minutes of action.

The former University of Las Vegas-Nevada defensive ace muffed majority of his shots at that stage as he only came up with four points before the halftime break.

The Nationals exploited that glaring disadvantage as Davonn Harp, Rudy Hatfield, Jeffrey Cariaso, Mick Pennisi and Andy Seigle played solidly throughout.

In the second game, Gerald Honeycutt registered a rare triple-double, finishing with 27 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists, as Talk N Text blasted Alaska, 84-67, for its seventh straight win.

The Phone Pals also dislodged the Hotdogs atop the standings and guaranteed themselves of a twice-to-beat edge going into the next round at 7-1. The Aces dropped to 4-5.

Celtics zap Lakers

BOSTON—With Shaquille O'Neal resting an injured right wrist for the second straight game, Paul Pierce scored 33 points and Tony Battie grabbed 15 rebounds in the Celtics' 99-81 win over the Lakers in the NBA on Friday night.

Kobe Bryant shot only 5-of-25 but still led the Lakers with 26 points. He was just 1-of-11 in the second half as the Lakers scored fewer points than in their previous season low, a 95-83 loss to Phoenix on Nov. 16.

The win gave the Celtics a sweep of the season series for the first time in 10 years and dealt a blow to the Lakers' hopes of overtaking Sacramento for the NBA's best record.

Pacers 97, Suns 87

In Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal scored 32 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and Brad Miller had 25 points.

The Pacers desperately needed the victory after dropping five of their last six to fall into a tie with Toronto for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East.

The Raptors are 2-0 this season against Indiana with head-to-head games remaining on Sunday and Wednesday. The Raptors played Chicago on Friday.

The Pacers, who blew an 11-point lead in the fourth quarter against Boston on Tuesday, nearly squandered a 22-point lead late in the third.

Pistons 92, 76ers 88

In Philadelphia, Jerry Stackhouse had 34 points, including two crucial free throws with 13 seconds left, as the Detroit Pistons won on the road for the 16th time in 19 games.

Stackhouse was 15-of-16 from the foul line, making his first 13.

Complete results

Indiana 97, Phoenix 87; Detroit 92, Philadelphia 88; New Jersey 110, Orlando 85; Boston 99, L.A. Lakers 81; Charlotte 97, Washington 91; Miami 102, Milwaukee 97; Memphis 99, Houston 81; Toronto 98, Chicago 96; Sacramento 117, Utah 109; New York 86, Seattle 83; Golden State 108, Denver 104. *AP*

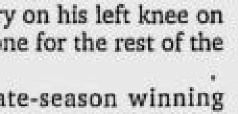
Mavs vs Spurs

THE DALLAS Mavericks and the San Antonio Spurs will square off tonight (Sunday, April 7) at 9 p.m. on NBN-4. The Spurs will be led by MVP candidate Tim Duncan, while Dirk Nowitzki, Steve Nash and Michael Finley banner the Mavericks.

No miracle in D.C.

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao



THE EIGHTH and final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference is far from decided but there won't surely be a miracle in D.C.

That's because Michael Jordan decided on April 3 to stay in the sidelines for the remainder of the regular season due to knee problems and the Washington Wizards, who were five games (26-21) over .500 at the All-Star break, have apparently kissed their playoff bid goodbye with consecutive losses to the Dallas Mavericks, LA Lakers, Milwaukee Bucks and Charlotte Hornets last week to bring their record to 34-42 with six games to go.

The on-and-off Indiana pacers and the streaking Toronto Raptors are currently tied for the No. 8 playoff berth in the East with identical 37-38 records.

The two teams battle each other tomorrow (Manila time) at Toronto with the Raptors seeking to extend their seven-game winning streak. A remarkable feat that is, considering that the Canadian club has been playing without star forward Vince Carter, who underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee on March 26 and is gone for the rest of the regulars at least.

The Raptors' late-season winning binge may have helped coach Lenny Wilkens keep his job. Wilkens, who has two years and $10 million remaining on his contract, had been under fire after the Raptors lost 17 of 18 games following the All-Star intermission, including 13 straight defeats at one stretch.

It must be said that the losing streak coincided with the knee injury to Carter early in February that forced Vinsanity to miss the All-Star Game and the early portion of the 13-game slide.

Credit Carter's teammates for not giving up after learning that their captain would be undergoing season-ending knee surgery. Behind the collective efforts of Antonio Davis, Morris Peterson, Alvin Williams and Keon Clark, the Raptors are finding ways to win and keep their playoff hopes alive.

During its current winning act, Toronto beat Cleveland, Washington, Miami, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Chicago twice. Among them, only the reigning East titlist 76ers remain in contention for a playoff spot in the conference.

Both Indiana and Toronto have seven games remaining on their sked.

The Raptors have their work cut out for them. While they still have five home games left, five of their last seven assignments will be against teams headed for the playoffs or with postseason hopes.

Two of them will be against Indiana—April 8 (Manila time) at home and April 11 on the road—a pair of crucial games that likely will determine which team secures the No. 8 playoff ticket. Toronto leads Indiana 2-0 in their head-to-head season series so far.

The Raptors will have home games against Charlotte on April 10, Atlanta on April 13, New Jersey on April 15 and Cleveland on April 18. They play at Milwauke on April 17.

JP Tuason karting clinics begin April 14

TWO-TIME Karter of the Year and Formula 3 driver JP Tuason will be conducting a series of karting clinics this summer starting April 14 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Carmona, Cavite.

Karting enthusiasts aged eight years old and above can join the clinic intended to discover and develop future karting stars.

"This is my way of giving back to the sport the fruits and victories I achieved as a car racer. This is also part of the development program of Tuason Racing Project, in fulfillment of my father's dream of one day seeing a prominent Filipino in international competitions," said Tuason, son of the late car racing legend Arthur and lead driver of Tuason Racing-Team Oxygen.

Karting is considered as the grassroot of all motorsports. Most of the best car racers like Michael Schumacher, Mika Hakkinen and the great Ayrton Senna started in karting before moving up to Formula car racing.

So far, only Dodjie Laurel and Jovy Marcelo were the only Filipinos who made it big in international motorsports. Laurel was a prominent racer in the Macau Grand Prix but his budding career was cut short by a fatal accident.

In tribute to the Filipino driver, a portion of the street site of the prestigious race in Macau was named after him—Laurel Street.

Asian F3 starts today in Batangas

TWO-TIME Karter of the Year JP Tuason plunges into Formula 3 racing, this time carrying the colors of Tuason Racing-Team Oxygen in the kickoff of the 2002 Asian Formula 3 Championship today at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The 27-year-old Tuason, son of late car racing legend Arthur, eyes a decent finish despite facing tough challenge from Pepon Marave, Richard Joson and defending champion Jojo Sliverio.

His stint is being backed up by Oxygen, Standard Insurance, Hanjin Shipping, Technomarine Watches, Forward Watches, Magic 89.9, Plantworks and Opel-Makati.

"This is a fulfillment of my dream and the dream that my father built for me," said Tuason during the launching of Tuason Racing Team Oxygen at the Glorietta.

He was one of the ace drivers in the Formula Toyota Cup last year under the Standard Insurance Racing Team.

Tanamor launches RP boxers' drive

HELSINKI, Finland—Already assured of at least two bronze medals, Caltex Team Philippines takes on the European opposition on four fronts as the 21st Gunnar Barlund International Boxing Championship gets going Friday at the Helsinki Sports hall here.

Chowdry Cup lightflyweight gold medalist Harry Tanamor, competing for the first time in the flyweight class, sets the Philippine campaign in motion when he faces Spain's Cristobal Salgado in the quarterfinal round of the 12-nation tournament.

Compatriot Violito Payla, also gold medalist in the Chowdry Cup two weeks ago in Azerbaijan, drew a bye into the semifinals, setting up a possible all-Filipino title showdown in this international event where the Philippines is the only Asian country competing.

SAMPRAS SHOCKED

Spain ties US Cuppers

HOUSTON—Alex Corretja beat Pete Sampras in the Davis Cup quarterfinals to tie Spain 1-1 with the United States. Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic beat France's Nicolas Escude to level the score, and Russia and Argentina won their matches to surge ahead 2-0.

Despite a losing record on grass, Corretja came alive in the third set, beating Sampras 4-6, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5, 6-4 on Friday at the Westside Tennis Club in Houston.

Earlier, American Andy Roddick beat Spain's Tommy Robredo 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 (7).

In Pau, France - the defending champion - had taken a 1-0 lead after Sebastien Grosjean beat Bohdan Ulihrach 6-3, 3-6, 0-6, 6-3, 6-1 in a rollercoaster game on indoor courts Friday.

The Frenchman was a set up but, from 3-3 in the second, lost nine games in a row. He hit back to move 3-0 up in the fourth and yielded only four more games before giving his team the lead.

"He had two great sets, but I kept on fighting," Grosjean said.

Later, Novak's 7-6(4), 6-1, 6-7 (5), 7-5 victory over Escude leveled the score to 1-1. Neither Marat Safin nor Yevgeny Kafelnikov dropped a set in their matches against Sweden.

On the red clay courts of Moscow's Luzhniki stadium, Safin made up for losing to Johansson in the Australian Open final by outplaying Sweden's Thomas Johansson 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. Kafelnikov then scored a 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-1 win over Thomas Enqvist.

"I was in control from the very beginning," Safin said. "It was just good out there."

Kafelnikov won the first set tiebreak from 5-3 down and closed it out after a long baseline rally.

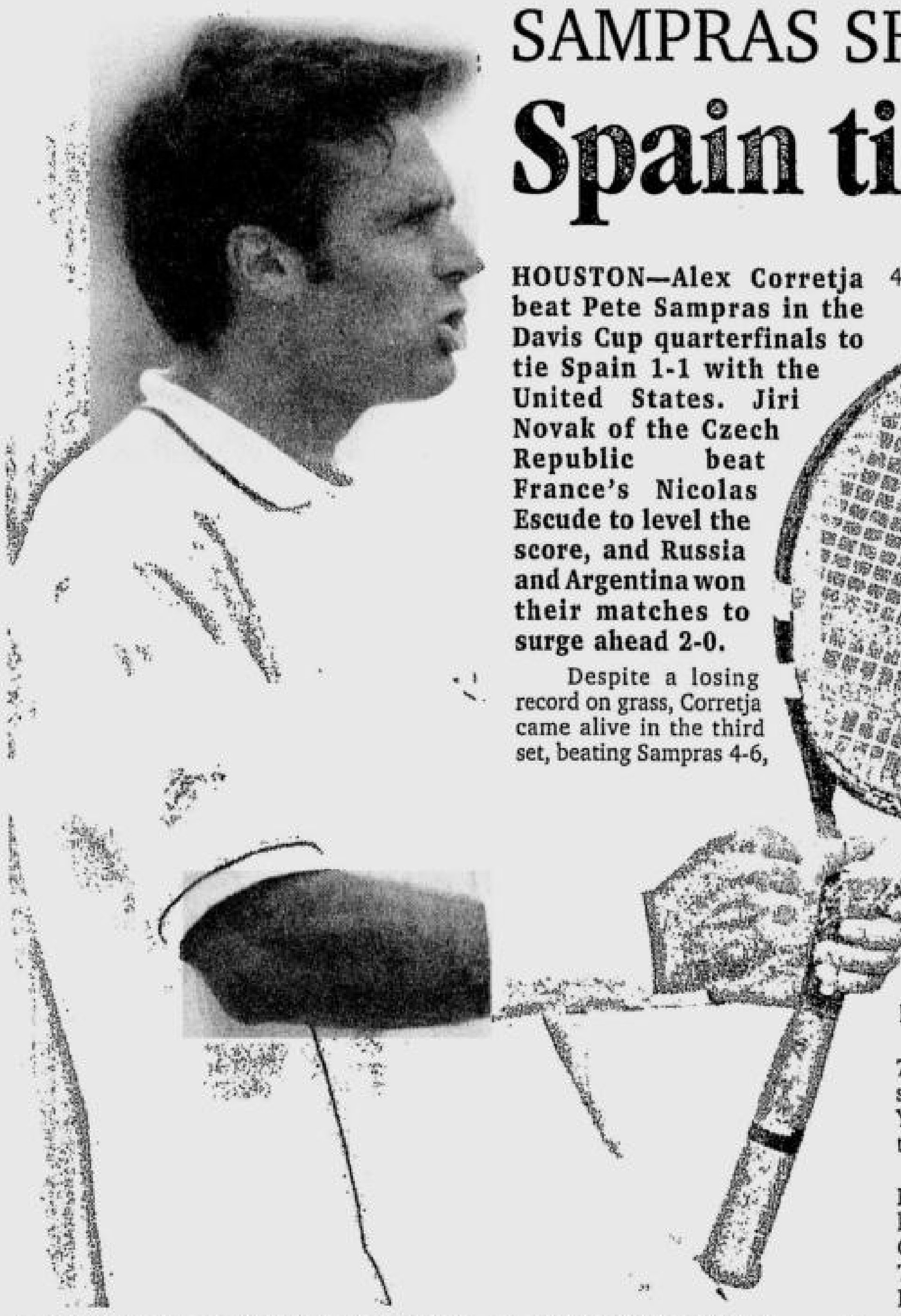
Playing adventurous serve and volley, the Russian survived a break point in the sixth game of the second set before holding for 4-2 and Enqvist won only two more games.

In Buenos Aires, Gaston Gaudio and Juan Ignacio Chela won their singles matches to put Argentina ahead of Croatia 2-0.

Gaudio beat Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-3, keeping his Davis Cup streak intact. He has won all eight of the matches he has played so far in the competition.

Chela later beat Ivo Karlovic 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 to put the Argentines ahead.

Among matches lower down the Davis Cup ladder, rain severely disrupted the Italy vs. Finland match in Europe-Africa zone Group One. The home team's Davide Sanguinetti led Kim Tilikainen 6-2, 4-3 in the opening singles at Reggio Calabria when rain suspended play for the day. *AP*



CORRETJA rejoices after stunning Sampras, 4-6, 4-6, 7-6 (7-4), 7-5, 6-4. AP

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Gerard Cantada notched a 19-stroke victory to rule Class C in the Milo-Philippine Junior Golf Development Association summer circuit at the Valley Golf Club. Also today in 1991, Francesca La'O beat Jennifer Saret, 6-3, 6-3, to bag the girls' singles plum of the second Mitsubishi Lancer International junior tennis championship at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Adamson spikers prevail

By Dennis Eroa

ADAMSON proved too much against College of St. Benilde and joined early winners University of the East, Mapua and Philippine Christian University in today's round of 16 in the Metro Manila eliminations of the 6th Nestea beach volley championships at the La Salle Greenhills courts.

The Adamson belles posted their third straight win with a lopsided 21-13 victory over College of St. Benilde and boosted their hopes for a place in the national finals slated May at scenic Boracay.

Starring Geralyn Alberto and Janice Rosales, University of the East was simply too much against the PATTS' tandem of movie star Isabel Granada and Connie Luzabio, 21-11, while Mapua's Louvella Abanilla and Janilyn Sarabia spanked Fatima, 21-3. PCU's Liezl Constantino and Joan Gementiza dominated Trinity, 21-7.

Granada, the crowd favorite, and Luzabio, however, kept PATTS in contention by downing PSCA, 21-17. University of the Philippines also remained in the thick of the fight by outlasting Trinity, 21-15.

The 20-year-old Alberto, a senior marketing student, and the 21-year-old Rosales caught Granada and Luzabio flatfooted with their power plays, never looking back after taking a commanding 9-1 lead.

Central Colleges of the Philippines and National College of Business Administration are expected to crowd UE and Letran for spots in the men's division. CCP beat La Salle, 21-14, while NCBA stunned MIT, 21-15.

6-day racing sked unfolds Tuesday

THE MANILA Jockey Club kicks off its summer racing festival with six days of racing starting this Tuesday (April 9) at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

MJCI will start its weeklong program with a huge incentive—a carryover of P827,558.19 in the popular Winner-Take-All event for its Tuesday schedule.

"We will be offering our patrons four days of exciting evening races during the weekdays and two full cards during the weekend to be highlighted by two premium events bannered by the PCSO Grand Championship Race this coming Sunday," said MJCI president and chief executive, lawyer Alfonso R. Reyno Jr.

The featured PCSO Grand Championship race is a P1-million event exclusive for four-year-old and above gallopers that competed in last year's sweepstakes races.

Six classy horses are set to dispute the title over 1,500 meters. Heading the field is Staunch Ally, a recent surprise winner over champion Wind Blown in the Philracom Commissioner's Cup, also at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

'One of a longshots'

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

THE LOSS of the heavily favored Countess Diana ruined every *karerista's* (except of course the die-hard *dehadistas*) Friday night at the Santa Ana Park.

In a shocking turnaround, the mare wound up a badly beaten fifth, not even taking the early lead which everyone had expected her to do.

The horse was a non-factor throughout the race, breaking out third, moving to second at the far turn and then lost steam in the run home.

Extreme longshot Gifted Galloper won that race after sneaking by the rail to turn back James Joy, more known as a stayer but surprisingly outbroke Countess Diana and the other speedballs in that fateful Race 7.

Only recently, Countess Diana impressively won at Santa Ana, her homeground, beating the likes of Brazen Truth, Real Dancer and Allusion. Prior to that, she was just edged at the wire by Regal Mischief.

"Pa'no natalo yun?" kareristas, shaking their heads in disbelief, asked.

My *Silip* Boy said only Pat Dilema and Countess Diana's connections know the answer.

We hope that incident didn't escape the eyes of Santa Ana stewards.

The *bayang kareristas* want Countess Diana to be suspended for sudden reversal of form.

* * *

A couple of "one of a longshots," as the comedian-racecaller at Santa Ana loves to call them, won after Countess Diana's debacle.

Front Page prevailed in Race 8, while Trick Shot capped the night by ruling Race 9.

Nobody scored a perfect 7 in the WTA, while the Pick 5 also ended without a winner, resulting in carryovers.

The night's biggest smile was flashed by those who got the Extra Double combination 1-7 (Races 7-9) which returned a hefty dividend of P22,916 for every P5 bet.

***"Malamang nag-ayawan na ang karamihan dahil naubos kay* Countess Diana," added my *Silip* Boy.**

* * *

Fulton Su, PRCI's vice president for marketing and business development, said that races at Santa Ana can now be heard over dzME, 1530 on the AM band.

"If you're in the car, stuck in traffic or even out of town, you can now follow the races at Santa Ana," added Fulton, a gracious host every time we're at the Park.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Montpellier 2. Sensational 3. Play the Field
Race 2—1. Snake Dancer 2. Redding Drive 3. Princess Helena 4. Turkish Delight
Race 3—1. The Dominator 2. Maayo Kaayo 3. Windlass 4. Read My Mind 5. Count Me In
Race 4—1. Jade Louise 2. Speed Master 3. Hacker
Race 5—1. Señor Perior 2. Hemisphere 3. Dragon Doding 4. Spirited Lady
Race 6—1. Grand Ecole 2. Worth Ur While 3. Loose Cannon 4. Golden Disc
Race 7—1. Born Perfect 2. Bright Star 3. Matipuno/Reign Supreme 4. Miwa's Treasure 5. Explorer
Race 8—1. Mrs. Big 2. Kay Rufina 3. Bogart
Race 9—1. Be Quiet 2. Ilocandia Slew 3. Sparkling Sky 4. Master Ijhay
Race 10—1. Schwarzenegger 2. Dazzling Doe 3. Cuadro de Alas 4. Golden Prince
Race 11—1. Witch Craft 2. Jhelen 3. Cardinal Rule 4. Impeccable
Race 12—1. Roman Dance 2. Enjoy D View 3. Fly Away/Silver Print 4. Doña Evelyn 5. El Magnifico
Race 13—1. Aya's Star 2. Hope 3. Lucky El 4. Shot Gun
Race 14—1. Arriba King 2. Terrific 3. Mighty Strong 4. Conquer D Sun/Art of Rose 5. Tumatagintlng 6. Royal Worship

SUBIC RACEWAY

The Subic International Raceway (above) will be the host of the Asian Festival of Speed, Petron Grand Pix and Philippine National Touring Car Championship on April 13-14. Lengthened to three kilometers, the new SIR offers faster and more demanding racetrack, better facilities, new control tower, VIP lounges and many other innovations. The chief organizer is the Sports Values Inc.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NY Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 0; Cleveland 10, Detroit 1; Anaheim 3, Texas 1; Boston 3, Baltimore 0; Minnesota 4, Toronto 3; Kansas City 5, Chicago White Sox 2; Seattle 7, Oakland 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Philadelphia 6, Florida 2; Pittsburgh 2, Chicago Cubs 1; San Francisco 3, San Diego 1, 10 innings; Montreal 8, Cincinnati 7; N.Y. Mets 9, Atlanta 3; Milwaukee 6, Arizona 2; St. Louis 5, Houston 1; Los Angeles 9, Colorado 0. *AP*

'Bata' Reyes pulls off hardest trick shot

EFREN "Bata" Reyes casually sinks four balls with one magical stroke of his cue. He follows by hitting the 5-ball into the side pocket while kicking the 8-ball into the corner hole with subtle control of the mother ball, setting up a gimme shot with the nine.

Then the unbelievable happened: Bata missed.

Hard as it may be to believe that a man regarded all over the world as the best pool player that ever lived could miss a shot so easy, Reyes swore pulling off that shot–for the cameras, that is–was 100 folds harder than actually making it.

"Mahirap gawin 'yon," said Reyes, breaking into a gap-toothed smile, as he referred to the shot he was asked to make in a television commercial he did for McDonald's. The ad has successfully established the striking parallelism between Bata's "unbelievable shot" and the "unbelievable low price" of McDonald's Sundae McDip at only P10.

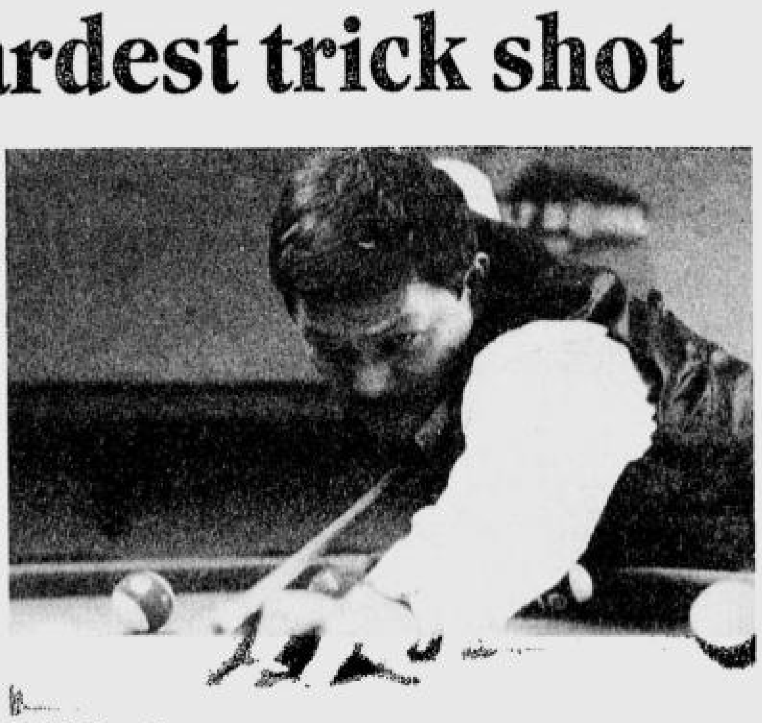
Shot in a studio somewhere in Makati City that was made to look like a competition hall, the commercial asked Reyes to have the 9-ball stop right at the lip of the corner hole.

It was in no way easy.

So much so that the shot, Reyes said, required all the delicate touch and precision from his world-class hands, and took no less than 18 takes to get it done.

But the commercial in itself is a victory for the unassuming native of Pampanga who rose from being a billiard hand–a "spotter" in local parlance–in a pool hall in Sta. Cruz, Manila to become one of the biggest sports heroes of his generation.

The commercial was the fourth he has done so far since his victory in Cardiff, Wales—proof of his growing stature as one of the premier product endorsers in the country today, rivaling movie stars, television personalities, and basketball heroes.



REYES in action.

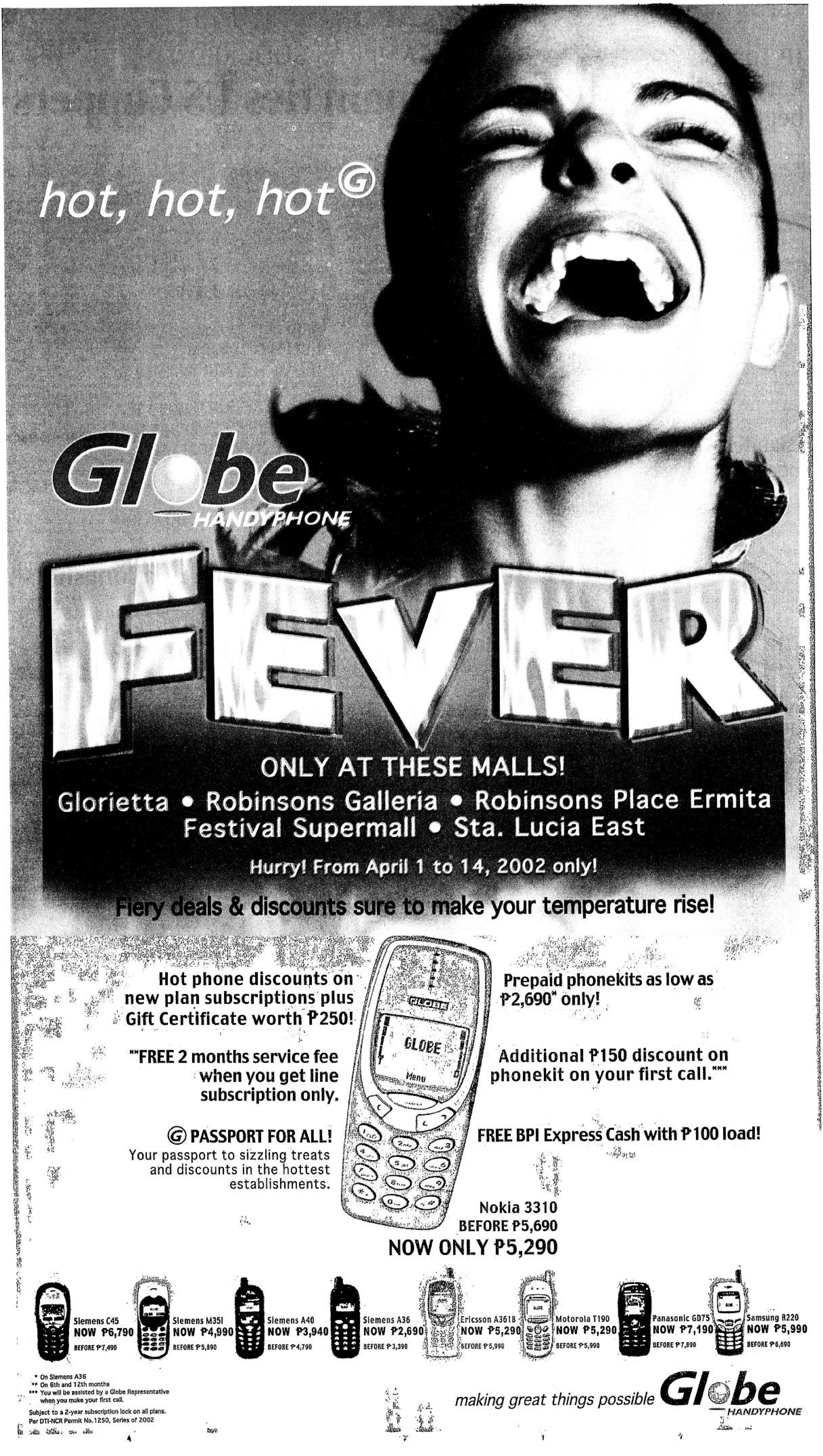
SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
The Basketball Show at 2 p.m. on RPN 9
US NCAA Finals – Maryland vs Indiana at 3 p.m. (r) on Sky and Home Cable 29
NBA at 9:10 p.m. on NBN 4
GOLF: PGA Bellsouth Classic, Third Round at 2 p.m. on Star Sports

FEDBOP 25th National Tournament (Silver Anniversary)

The Federation of Duckpin Bowlers of the Philippines (FEDBOP) will hold its 25th National Tournament, hosted by Davao Province Duckpin Bowlers Association (DAPROBA), on April 24 to 29, 2002 at Gold City Bowling Lanes, Tagum City, Davao del Norte. FEDBOP National President, Engr. Chary C. Centeno, is inviting all affiliated associations to join the tournament. For informations, email at fedbop@g2gm.com.



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Ericsson A3618	NOW ₱5,290	BEFORE ₱5,990
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Samsung R220	NOW ₱5,990	BEFORE ₱6,690

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5,000 'green' homes for gov't workers /A24
Pangarap folk warn of bloodshed /A24

METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

4-day work week means less traffic, says Gordon

By Jerome Aning

METRO Manila residents should expect traffic, especially during rush hours, to ease up because of the four-day work week.

According to Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, this is one of the beneficial side effects of the adjusted working period which Malacañang is implementing this month and in May.

The four-day work week will be implemented in Manila by the city government.

Because government employees will be working for a longer time each day, they and the people they are dealing with may have to go home late, thus decreasing the number of pedestrians and commuters during rush hours.

Gordon conceded that the main objective of the four-day work week—to increase domestic tourism—will not be immediately realized.

GORDON

But he said government workers who are assured of a three-day vacation would now have time to plan for trips to local tourist spots with their families.

Travel expenditures by local tourists benefit not only operators of tourist spots but also transport workers, hotel and restaurant owners, souvenir vendors and those engaged in other tourism-related industries.

Government workers will have more time for their families and can also devote their time, money and energy to other fruitful activities aside from traveling, according to Gordon.

The tourism chief said the success of the adjusted work schedule might also encourage private firms to adopt it.

In Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza has issued an administrative order detailing guidelines on the adjustment of official working hours for the next two months.

He said the city government's 8,000 regular employees shall report for four consecutive days each work week—either from Monday to Thursday or from Tuesday to Friday—except on holidays.

The number of work hours per day shall not be less than 10 hours, meal periods not included.

Heads of the city government's departments, bureaus and other offices shall issue the necessary orders to implement this requirement, Atienza said.

However, they must ensure that at least 50 percent of their workforce will report on Mondays and the other half on Fridays so that there will be a complete workforce from Tuesday to Thursday.

Exempted from the mayor's order are offices involved in health, such as hospitals and health centers, and in public safety, security and protection, and other emergency services, such as the police.

WILL POWER

Using only one leg to propel her wheelchair, Milagros Espiritu races to the finish line in the recent women's "wheelathon," a wheelchair race for the disabled in Cainta, Rizal. The 17-year-old completed the race in 1 hour and 8 minutes. DENNIS SABANGAN

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Old Intramuros warehouse to become light-and-sound history museum

By Jerome Aning

A NEW light-and-sound museum showcasing Philippine history will rise at the site of an old Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas warehouse in Intramuros, according to Department of Tourism officials.

BSP Gov. Rafael Buenaventura and Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho turned over the BSP Allied Warehouse to the DOT during simple rites at the Baluarte de San Gabriel in Intramuros Wednesday afternoon.

The property is part of the dividend which the BSP annually remits to the national government. According to Buenaventura, the BSP is required by its charter to remit to the national government at least 75 percent of its net profit in the form of cash, stock or property dividends.

Tourism Secretary Gordon said the future museum will showcase life in the Old Walled City during the Spanish colonial era, and the life of Jose Rizal when he studied in Intramuros schools.

The warehouse has a floor area of 1,800 square meters and is located on Santa Lucia Street near the Baluartillo de San Jose.

The original structure was built in 1684 and originally housed the Beaterio de la Compania, a finishing school for Filipino women.

The establishment then served as a ladies' dormitory in 1748 before it was transformed into an educational institution in 1883.

The Congregation of the Religious of the Virgin Mary, founded by the Blessed Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, ran the school. It was later renamed the Colegio del Espiritu Santo.

The structure was damaged during World War II. Since then, it has undergone several renovations.

The BSP acquired the property in 1983 and used it to store office supplies and disposable records as well as unassembled historical and cultural pieces acquired by the agency.

Gordon asked for the property in September 2001 and made it a part of the DOT's Intramuros development project.

Buenaventura endorsed the transfer, which the Monetary Board approved the following month.

5,000 'green' homes for gov't workers

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

FIVE government agencies have joined hands in building in Tanay, Rizal an initial 5,000 housing units in the next five years for low-salaried state workers.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which leads in implementing the project, said the construction of the 130-hectare Garden Cottages Housing Project in Barangay Cuyambay has already started.

But Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said the government was looking for an additional 100 hectares to expand the housing project "until even low-salaried government employees can have their own homes."

"Our collective vision is to build a total community which government employees can call their very own, a world-class residential ecology park that is self-sustaining yet affordable to low-salaried state employees," he said.

The project is in partnership with the departments of transportation and communication (DOTC), interior and local government (DILG), national defense (DND), and education (DepEd) whose employees will get a share of the initial 5,000 housing units, at 1,000 units per department.

During the launching on March 6, President Macapagal-Arroyo raffled off two housing units for free to employees of the five departments.

The President also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the DENR, the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) or Pag-Ibig Fund and project developer Blue Star Development Corp.

Under the MOA, Pag-Ibig Fund loans granted to DENR, DOTC, DILD, DND and DepEd employees will entail no down payment or cash-out and no equity and will have easy payment terms for the employees.

Alvarez said the unique and important feature of the housing project is its "ecological component, envisioned as a trend-setting model in eco-residential development, a virtual hidden garden in the nook of Rizal."

"The development plan will be implemented along with a parallel blueprint for environmental engineering," he said.

The community will have its own forest park and nursery site which will be declared wildlife rescue centers or refuge for endangered wildlife. It will also have bicycle and jogging lanes as well as recreational centers designed like eco-tourist destinations.

The project was first conceived in January 1993 when then President Fidel V. Ramos issued Memorandum Circular No. 28 instructing all heads of government agencies to implement programs that will provide housing for rank-and-file employees.

On April 2, 1996, Ramos signed Proclamation No. 776 reserving a parcel of land in Tanay for housing for employees of the five departments.

"This is a positive step toward realizing every rank-and-file's dream for a decent home," Alvarez said.

The DND will build a hospital and provide transportation, DOTC will lend communications equipment and the DILG will provide a comprehensive, round-the-clock police security once the project is completed. The DepEd will build a community school.

Employees from the five departments will get single detached, single attached, duplex, and row houses on lots of 42 sqm (P180,000), 96 sqm (P340,000), and 120 sqm (P400,000) through an easy-to-pay loan package from the Pag-Ibig Fund.

Pangarap folk warn of bloodshed

By Agnes E. Donato

RESIDENTS of Pangarap Village in Caloocan City on Friday warn of possible "bloodshed" if government continues to do nothing to stop the demolition of their houses by businessman Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta III.

Fred Munieza, president of the homeowners association in Pangarap Village, even hinted that some of the residents are thinking of resorting to measures "outside the legal system," to protect or reclaim what they said are "rightfully theirs."

Araneta has been claiming the 156-hectare property which the residents said was awarded to them by the Marcos government in 1972.

"We feel that the (Macapagal-Arroyo) government has abandoned us," Munieza told the Inquirer. "We don't know if the fact that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo is related by blood to Greggy Araneta, had anything to do with the government's neglect of our problems."

He said Malacañang has not made any effort to negotiate with the Aranetas despite its knowledge of the Pangarap residents' plight.

"It's probably about time we use other methods to reclaim what is ours," he said.

He refused to elaborate on what these methods are and whether they involved violence.

But when prodded, he said some of the residents whose houses were demolished are military men still in active service.

The demolitions started in August last year and have displaced about 50 families so far. The last eviction, conducted last Tuesday, was carried out according to a court order issued by a Caloocan City judge.

Most of the displaced residents, Munieza said, had nowhere else to go and were forced to stay outside their dismantled houses.

"Squatters are even better off than us," he said. "At least, they are provided a relocation site and given some money when the government demolishes their homes. We don't get anything."

The Aranetas, he added, already had what were left of their houses flattened and the property fenced.

Man slain by in-laws

HOUSE painter Rodel Rodriguez, 30, was killed by his in-laws after he tried to reconcile with his estranged wife in Quezon City on Friday.

One of the victim's brothers-in-law, Alvin Samson, 27, was arrested for the killing. Samson is detained in the headquarters of the Central Police District criminal investigation unit in Camp Karingal. Police are still hunting the two other suspects–Rodriguez's mother-in-law Rebecca Samson, 52, and brother-in-law Ricky Samson, 30.

Investigators said Rodriguez and his wife Vilma quarreled Friday morning when he asked her where she spent his earnings.

Vilma left and went to her family's house to stay there temporarily. That same night, an intoxicated Rodriguez went to his in-laws to try to reconcile with his wife.

Police said Rodriguez went berserk and punched Vilma's two brothers, who stabbed him with an ice pick. *Agnes E. Donato*

Little hotel with a big heart

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero

TALES OF THE CITY

ON QUIRINO Avenue near Airport Road in Parañaque City, beside Protacio Hospital, stands the small Nichols Hotel.

It is a hotel with a heart.

Hotel bellman is Jessie Idanan, 33, who is from Pandan, Catanduanes. After reaching first year college in his home province, Jessie decided to try his luck in the Big City.

His first job in Manila was delivering peanut butter in 1987, for which he earned the princely amount of P45 a day. Later he worked as a warehouse man in an electronics firm, but the union struck, and the workers were given termination pay.

Jessie joined the construction work for the Nichols Hotel. When the task was completed, the hotel hired him as a bellman.

Recently, Jessie opened the doors to admit John J. Wright, a Scotsman in his 50s.

The foreign chap seemed perplexed. "He spoke like Sean Connery recovering from a stroke," quips hotel general manager Riza Herman de la Fuente, 31, an economics graduate of UP-Diliman. "Nobody understood him. So, whenever he needed something, he would send for me."

Slowly, Riza learned Wright's story. His fiancée, a Filipina he had met in Saudi Arabia, was arriving in Manila soon on a connecting flight to Davao City, where they would be married. But, for some reason, Wright did not know how to contact her, and he was on tenterhooks.

The hotel called the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and managed to ascertain the bride-to-be's arrival, and the two were reunited at the Nichols Hotel, to Wright's great joy.

When the couple left, however, bellman Jessie, during a routine inspection of their room, found US$11,700 in cash. Jessie immediately notified general manager Riza. Another flurry of frantic calls to Naia followed, and the couple returned to reclaim their money.

Another story involving guests is even more dramatic.

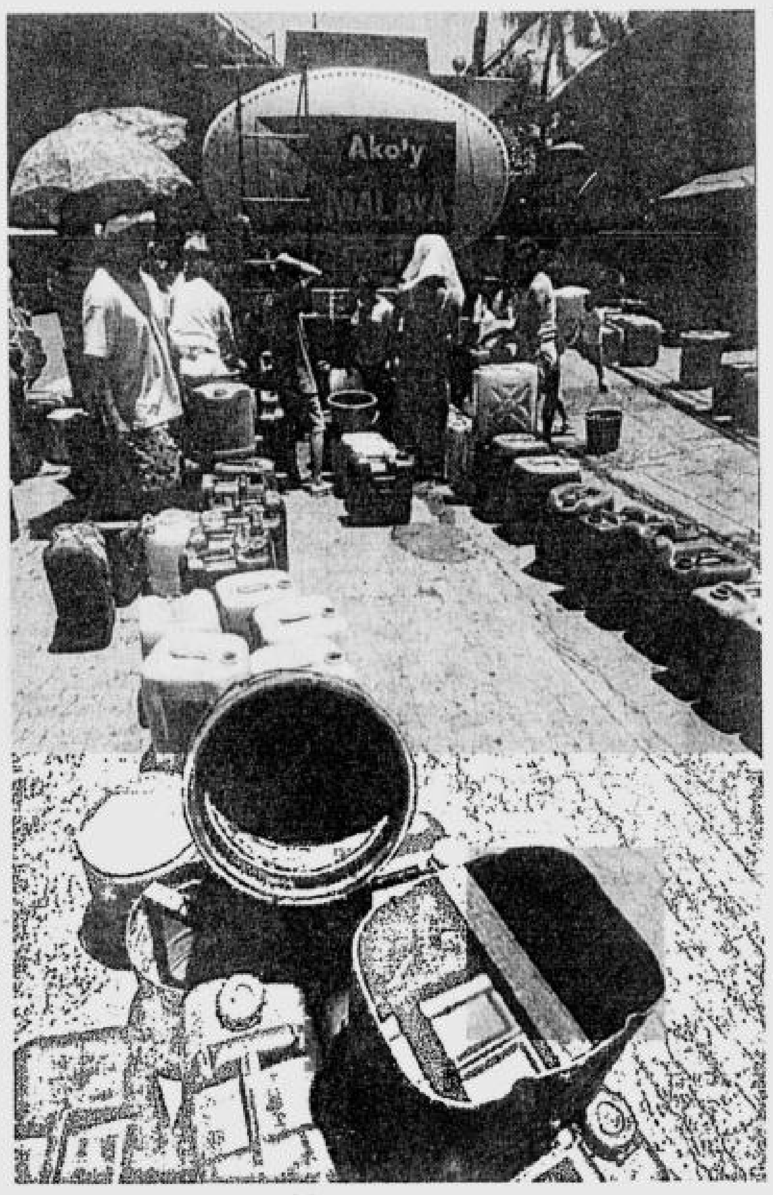
The personae this time were Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Keogh from Dublin, Ireland. Like Wright, the Keoghs were at a loss as to what to do in this country. In fact, they were distraught. They had just arrived from Ireland after receiving news that their son Daniel had been injured in a boating accident in Bohol. He was in a hospital, depressed, and had no appetite. There were no other details.

Again, the hotel went to work. Operations manager Rowena Ramos, 29, surfed the 'Net, traced the resort in Panglao Island where the youth stayed and the hospital he was in. And after another flurry of calls, long-distance this time (which the hotel did not charge to the guests), the mother was able to talk to her overjoyed son.

After a few days, Daniel was discharged and he made his way to the Nichols Hotel. "When they left, Mrs. Keogh was so happy that she embraced me," chuckles Rowena.

For the hotel with a heart, the hotel which walks the extra mile for its guests, it was another happy ending.

HONEST bellboy Jessie Idanan.



HOT LINE

Summer in the city is never complete without scenes of residents with plastic containers lining up in the broiling heat of the sun to collect water in areas where the water supply has been temporarily cut, such as in this part of Edsa near Timog Avenue in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Woman inventor nets simple answers to everyday problems

By Joey C. Papa
and Ana Ver-Papa
Contributors

WHEN Maja Prevendido of Lagro Subdivision in Quezon City was preparing for her PhD dissertation, she prayed hard for inspiration so that her work would not end up on the library shelf and gather dust.

The next thing she knew, she was sitting before her sewing machine, and that's how she got started. She sewed a simple bath soap saver from out of an old towel, because she had wanted to do something about the small pieces of used soap scattered in the bathroom.

She eventually topped the comprehensive exam that was part of the requirements for the doctorate degree in management, but to this day, she has not sat down to finish her dissertation on human resource development in the security business (her family was then operating a security agency).

Instead, Prevendido produced more soap savers and similar household items, using fine and rough nylon netting.

When not occupied with her net savers, Prevendido is in her tree-lined herbal garden.

A portion of the La Mesa Dam boundary fences her backyard. Together with her neighbors along that strip, she has initiated herb gardening.

"Not only will these gardens yield food for our kitchen, they will also help enhance the environment for the watershed," Prevendido said. How she had cringed upon learning that countless trees had been cut down on the La Mesa grounds to make way for a road for garbage trucks that would go to the Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) dumpsite.

"The message of my products is, we can solve our problems with simple solutions," Prevendido said. "Or, we can prevent problems by living simply. Why cut down trees to make way for garbage trucks? We can do much better than that. If a small soap bag can extend the life of a bar of soap from one to three weeks, how much more is saved and gained if everyone works to achieve a zero waste goal?"

Inexpensive

In April 1999, her Soapmate Soapsaver won the bronze medal in the 27th International Invention Exposition held in Geneva, Switzerland. The Department of Science and Technology sponsored her trip to Geneva.

The winning product is a very inexpensive bath soap saver, a small pouch made of soft nylon, which is kind to the skin. It has a drawstring, which the user can loop around the wrist while handling the soap so that it won't slip from the hand and onto the bathroom floor. When the soap saver is not in use, the string is pulled tight and the soap saver hung to keep the soap dry.

Soap, when left on the sink counter or in its plastic tray, melts easily. When the bar of soap is reduced to a small piece, it can remain in the pouch even while a new one is put in. This way, the soap life is extended.

Prevendido's first soap saver inspired her to conceive of and create other resource savers. An introductory pack includes the bath soap saver plus a two-in-one hanging body scrubber, a no-snag mosquito net bag for laundry soap, and a fishnet bag for the kitchen soap bar.

The kitchen soap fishnet bag is also very effective not only for removing kitchen grease but also for cleaning the greasy hands and bodies of workers in automotive shops, factories, piers, and similar greasy occupations.

'Netnizers'

Space savers or "netnizers" (for net bag organizers) came next.

A ventilated hanging shoe rack for shoes and slippers comes in various sizes. The smallest can hold four pairs while the biggest so far can hold 20 pairs.

Another set of netnizers can hold miscellaneous bathroom and kitchen items and can be hanged on the door or wall.

A set of carry-all bags—large, medium, small, and extra small—has attracted a foreign buyer, who is especially interested in the large one that remains easy to carry even with a load of 20 kilos.

A clothes hamper, when not in use, may be folded to save space. A washing machine bag holds small pieces of clothing during machine-washing, for convenient handling and to prevent damage or loss. The "gata" maker extracts milk from shredded coconut meat.

Behavior change

Prevendido earlier approached government agencies involved in the development of local, natural fibers, particularly abaca. However, very little, if any, research is available on processing the fiber into a more durable and inexpensive material. Still, Prevendido believes it can be done, given the proper support.

For now, her nylon items are serving their purpose. They are not meant to be thrown away, and certainly are not for burning when no longer desired. Prevendido says she would be happy if items bought from her are used for as long as possible.

"What is important is the change in behavior and attitude that will promote a zero-waste lifestyle," says Prevendido, who is also a member of the Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines.

The labels of her creations carry the information that the items are durable, reusable, washable, rust-free, and they can be easily stored, are flat when empty, and prevent spillage.

In short, her net savers and organizers are meant to save space, time, energy, and material and spiritual resources (STEMS), the zero waste guideposts.

The idea is to prevent waste from ever happening at all, because nothing at all must ever be wasted.

(The authors may be reached at bangon_kalikasan @skyinet.net.)

'Salvaged' 3 identified

MANILA policemen yesterday said they have identified the three men found dead in a vehicle parked in Ermita on Thursday.

The relatives of Antonio Sales and Joey de Luna of Antipolo City and Jonefre Vargas of Marikina City have already claimed the bodies of the dead men from the Tres Amigos funeral home in Paco.

Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban, head of the Western Police District homicide section, told reporters the three men—believed killed by a vigilante group—had no record in the WPD crime files.

A vigilante group claimed responsibility for the "summary execution" in March of three men who allegedly preyed on foreign tourists.

Sales, Vargas and De Luna were all strangled. Their bodies were found in an Isuzu Vitara parked at the corner of Nakpil and Vasquez streets.

Taluban said a relative of the vehicle owner, Marikina resident Imelda Avila, called the WPD and said the Vitara was owned by a niece and was stolen a few days earlier. *Jerome Aning*

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888

1	CROSS ROADS
2	TIME MACHINE
3	ICE AGE
4	BLADE 2
5	E.T.
6	HARI NG SELDA
7	ITLOG
8	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	BLADE 2
2	E.T.
3	ICE AGE
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	ITLOG
7	CROSS ROADS
8	TIME MACHINE
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	TIME MACHINE
2	SNAKE CHARMER
3	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4	E.T.
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	CROSS ROADS
7	ICE AGE
8	BLADE 2
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	ITLOG
11	GOT 2 BELIEVE
12	EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2	ICE AGE
3	EVIL WOMAN
4	CROSS ROADS
5	BLADE 2
6	E.T.
7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8	ITLOG
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE
11	TIME MACHINE
12	BLADE 2

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	BLADE 2
2	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3	ICE AGE
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
5	E.T.
6	TIME MACHINE
7	CROSS ROADS
8	ITLOG
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	BLADE 2
11	EVIL WOMAN
12	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	TIME MACHINE
2	BLADE 2
3	ITLOG
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	E.T.
6	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7	ICE AGE
8	E.T.
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	ICE AGE
2	CROSS ROADS
3	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
4	BLADE 2
5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
6	ITLOG
7	HARI NG SELDA
8	E.T.
9	TIME MACHINE
10	EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	D-TOX
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4	E.T.
5	13 GHOSTS
6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
7	HARI NG SELDA
8	ICE AGE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2	CLOSED
3	ICE AGE
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
6	E.T.
7	CLOSED
8	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	ICE AGE
2	E.T.
3	TIME MACHINE
4	ITLOG
5	CROSS ROADS
6	HARI NG SELDA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	ICE AGE
2	BLADE 2
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ITLOG
3	BLADE 2

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2	E.T.
3	BLADE 2
4	HARI NG SELDA

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	E.T.
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	D-TOX
5	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6	ICE AGE

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

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AYALA CINEMAS

ARTFILM · GREENBELT

Art Film

OPENS APRIL 10 (Wed.)

EFO
THE BEST FILM O

Javier Bardem   Olivier Martinez   Andrea Di Stefano
Johnny Depp & Sean Penn

"'**Before Night Falls**' is rapturous, intoxicating filmmaking... Don't miss it! Javier Bardem gives a mesmerizing and inspired performance!"
-Rex Reed, New York Observer

"'**Before Night Falls**' is a potent, visually stunning masterpiece! Javier Bardem gives a riveting, emotionally naked performace."
-Guy Flatley, Interview

WINNER!

Best Male Lead , **2001 Independent Spirit Awards**
Grand Jury Prize, Best Actor , **2000 Venice International Film Festival**
Best Actor (Bardem), **2000 National Board of Review**
Best Actor (Bardem), **2001 National Society of Film Critics**

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R) Strictly For Adults

WARNING! This film is unanimously rated R-18 for its adult thematic content which is Homosexuality and scenarios of NUDITY.

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	BLADE 2
2 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4 GOLD (DTS)	E.T.
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CROSS ROADS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	ICE AGE
8	HARI NG SELDA
9	GOT 2 BELIEVE
10	EVIL WOMAN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	RESERVE
5	ITLOG
6 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ITLOG
3	BLADE 2

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	BLADE 2
3	ITLOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TIME MACHINE
5	E.T.

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	EVIL WOMAN
2	ITLOG
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	BLADE 2
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	E.T.
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	E.T.

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS
2	OCEAN ELEVEN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
2	ITLOG
3	SENSUAL

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	ITLOG
A	TIME MACHINE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TIME MACHINE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	SNAKE CHARMER
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	HARI NG SELDA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
5	EVIL WOMAN
6	ITLOG
7 (DTS)	E.T.
8 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
9 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ITLOG

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ITLOG
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	CROSS ROADS
4 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
7 (DTS)	E.T.
8	ICE AGE
9	EVIL WOMAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
2	CROSS ROADS
3	ITLOG
4	ICE AGE
5 (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	HARI NG SELDA
7 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
8	E.T.

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	BLADE 2
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	ITLOG
5 (SDDS)	E.T.

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	HARI NG SELDA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	HARI NG DELDA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	TEMPTRESS
Lords	UOD SA LAMAN
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	BLADE 2
3	ITLOG

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
2	TIME MACHINE
3	ITLOG
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	ICE AGE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ITLOG

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ITLOG

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ITLOG
3 (DTS)	E.T.

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
4	E.T.

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	E.T.
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	BANDITS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3 (DOLBY)	D-TOX
4 (DTS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE
3	ITLOG
4 (DTS)	BLADE 2

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	ITLOG
5	E.T.

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	E.T.
3	TIME MACHINE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	E.T.
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	ICE AGE
2	EVA
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ICE AGE
3	RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS)	ITLOG

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BIBINGKA
2	BANDITS
3	HARI NG SELDA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ICE AGE
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	D-TOX
4	HARI NG SELDA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	ICE AGE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS)	E.T.
4	TIME MACHINE

***Movies are subject to change without prior notice**

ADVANCED SCREENING   THX   DOLBY DIGITAL   dts   SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL
[illegible]

PREMIERE CINEMA
THX
NOW SHOWING
E.T.
THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL

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CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

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Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	TIME MACHINE
2	E.T.
3	ICE AGE
4	BLADE 2
5	CROSS ROADS
6	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7	HARI NG SELDA
8	JOHN Q
9	EVIL WOMAN
10	ITLOG

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	BLADE 2
2	E.T.
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	CROSS ROADS
6	ICE AGE
7	TIME MACHINE

Metro East -
Marcos hway   682- 8193 / 8780

1	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2	ICE AGE
3	CROSS ROADS
4	E.T.
5	BLADE 2
6	HARI NG SELDA
7	TIME MACHINE
8	EVIL WOMAN

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	E.T.
2	ICE AGE
3	EVIL WOMAN
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5	BLADE 2
6	CROSS ROADS
7	TIME MACHINE
8	HARI NG SELDA

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	BLADE 2
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	ICE AGE
4	ITLOG
5	E.T.
6	EVIL WOMAN

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3	JIMMY NEUTRON
4	D-TOX
5	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6	RAT RACE

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	ICE AGE
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
5	EVA
6	E.T.

Star Mills-
Sn Fernando, Pamp.   875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	ICE AGE
2	TIME MACHINE
3	E.T.
4	ITLOG
5	CROSS ROADS
6	CROSS ROADS

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Program . . .

From page A28

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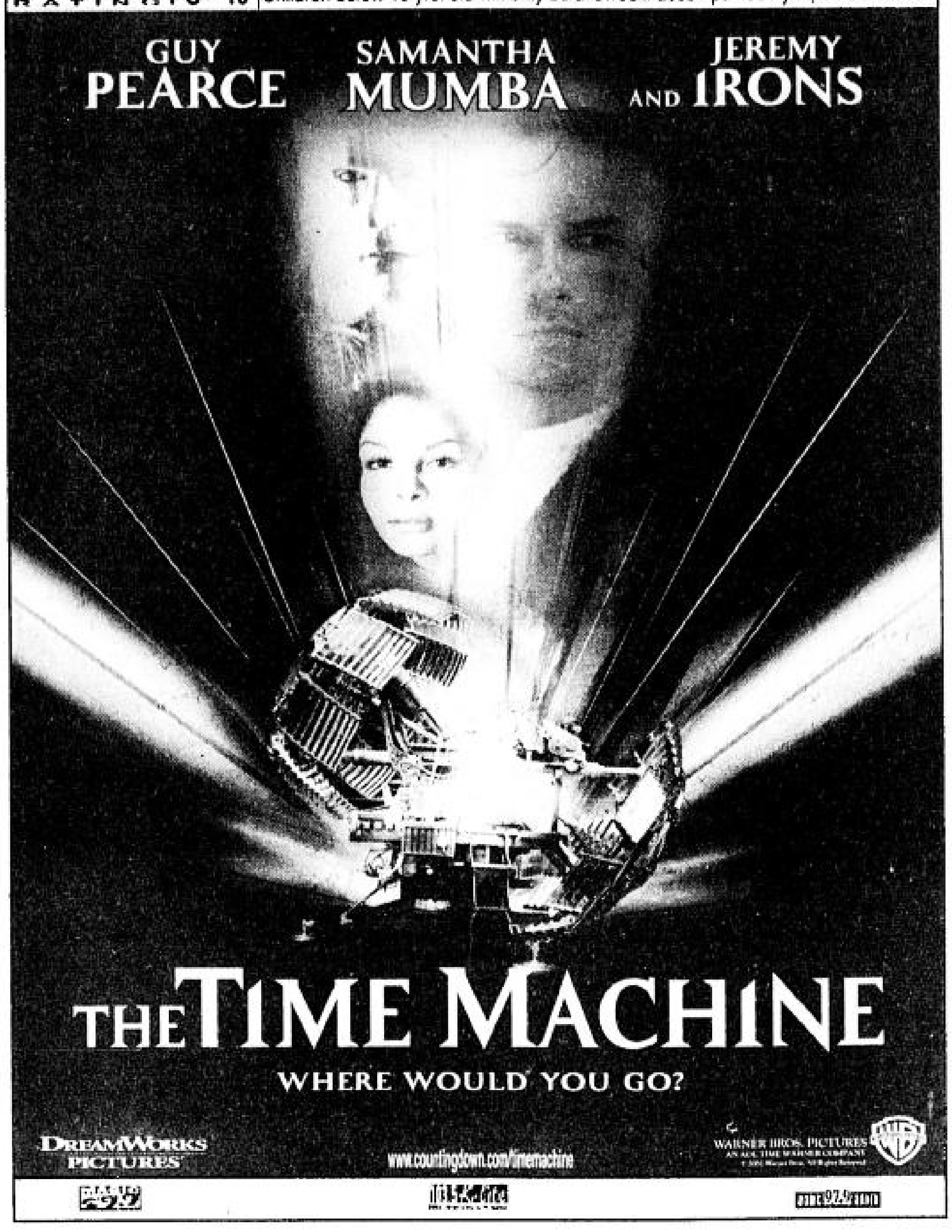
THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	CROSS ROAD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HARI NG SELDA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ICE AGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	E.T.
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	EVIL WOMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	HARI NG SELDA
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE
ROBEN	ITLOG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ITLOG
REMAR	HARI NG SELDA
REMAR-2	ITLOG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HARI NG SELDA
B	ITLOG
C	GOT 2 BELIEVE
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ICE AGE
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	BLADE 2
CINEMA-3	ITLOG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EVIL WOMAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	ICE AGE
CINEMA-8	QUEEN OF DAMNED
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	E.T.
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-12	CROSS ROADS
CINEMA-14	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-15	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	CROSS ROAD
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CINEMA-3	BLADE 2
CINEMA-4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-5	THE TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID


NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING PG – 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

GUY PEARCE SAMANTHA MUMBA AND JEREMY IRONS

THE TIME MACHINE

WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

DREAMWORKS PICTURES

www.countingdown.com/timemachine

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Friends don't let friends date psycho women from hell.
EVIL WOMAN
MTRCB RATING R Restricted

Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Wild, sexy new comedy!

'Evil Woman' NOW SHOWING !

In the tradition of their hit laugh-a-minute movies, Jason Biggs of AMERICAN PIE, Jack Black of SHALLOW HAL and Steve Zahn of DR. DOLITTLE 2 join comic forces in the hot and sexy new comedy from Columbia Pictures, EVIL WOMAN.

Darren (Biggs), Wayne (Zahn) and J.D. (Black) have been best of friends since 5th grade. They swore nothing could come between them...un til she came along.

Judith (Amanda Peet) sizzles with sex appeal but is really a cold-hearted and manipulative bitch. She digs her claws into Darren and snatches him from the friendship!

Darren must be rescued at all cost from the clutches of the evil woman, launching a series of side-splitting misadventures. (Rated R for nudity and sexual humor.)

WESLEY SNIPES
BLADE II
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

SHARPER
FASTER
DEADLIER

BLADE II
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
NOW SHOWING!

Vortex
Drumstick
OUTBACK

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CROSS ROADS - P 13 11:20, 1:35, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45	E.T. - GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	BLADE 2 - P 13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO - P 13 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40	EVIL WOMAN - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	ICE AGE - GP 11:15, 1:00, 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8:00, 9:50

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

OPENS ON WEDNESDAY!

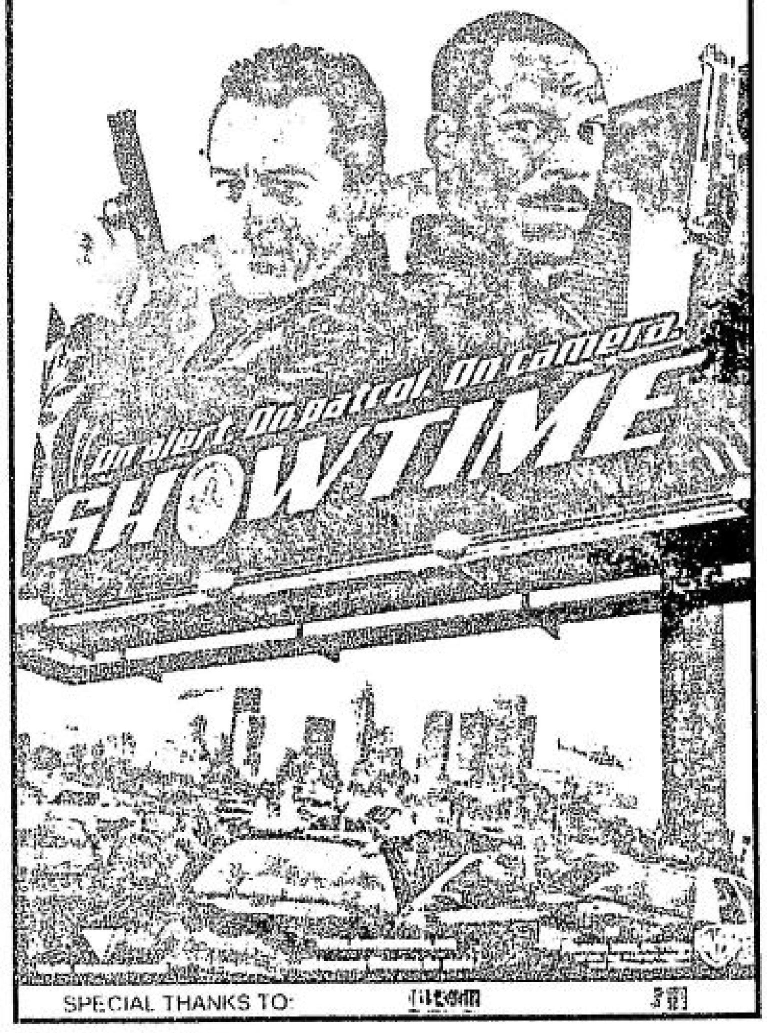
THEY THOUGHT THE TERROR WAS OVER...

THIS TIME, NOTHING CAN STOP IT!
SKYFILMS

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

OPENS APRIL 10 !

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 18 yrs.old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

EDDIE MURPHY ROBERT DENIRO

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$48,000,000 THE HIGHEST WEEKEND OPENING IN THE US THIS YEAR

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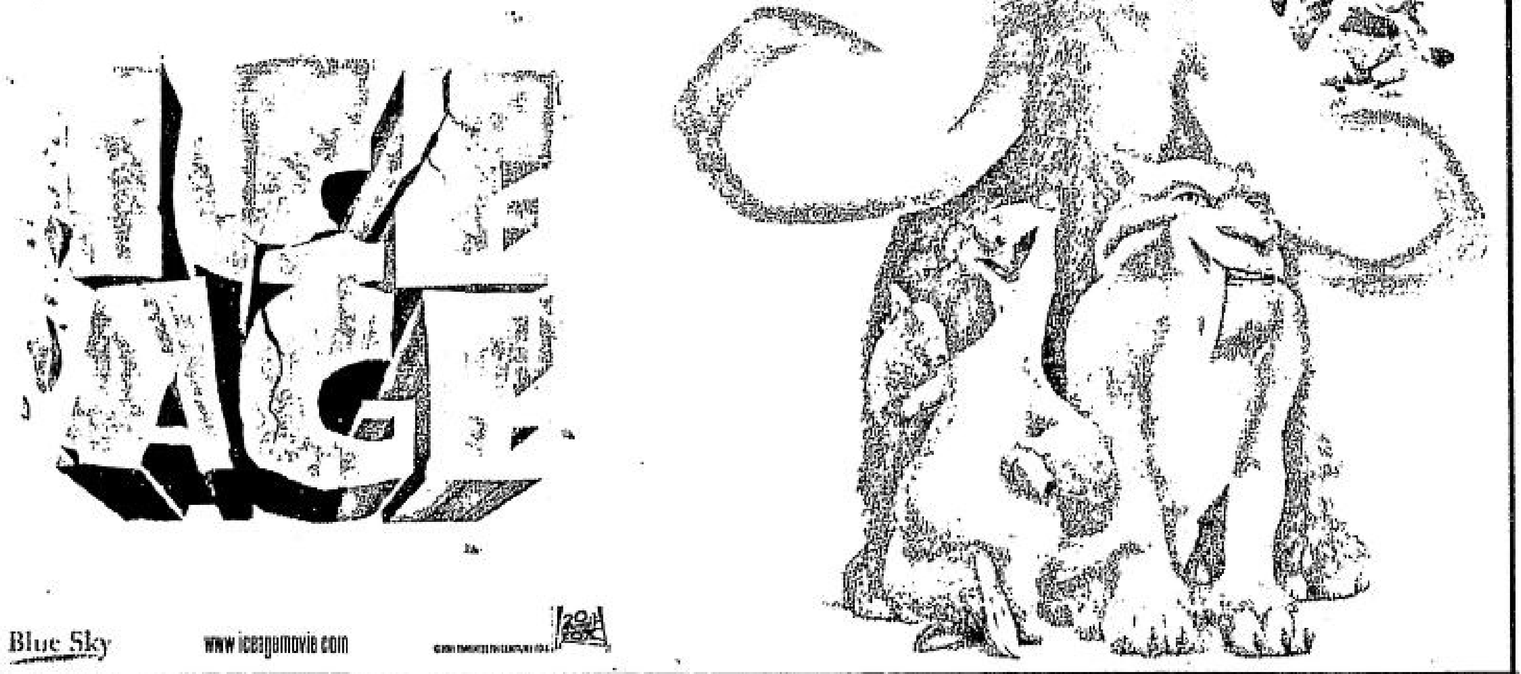

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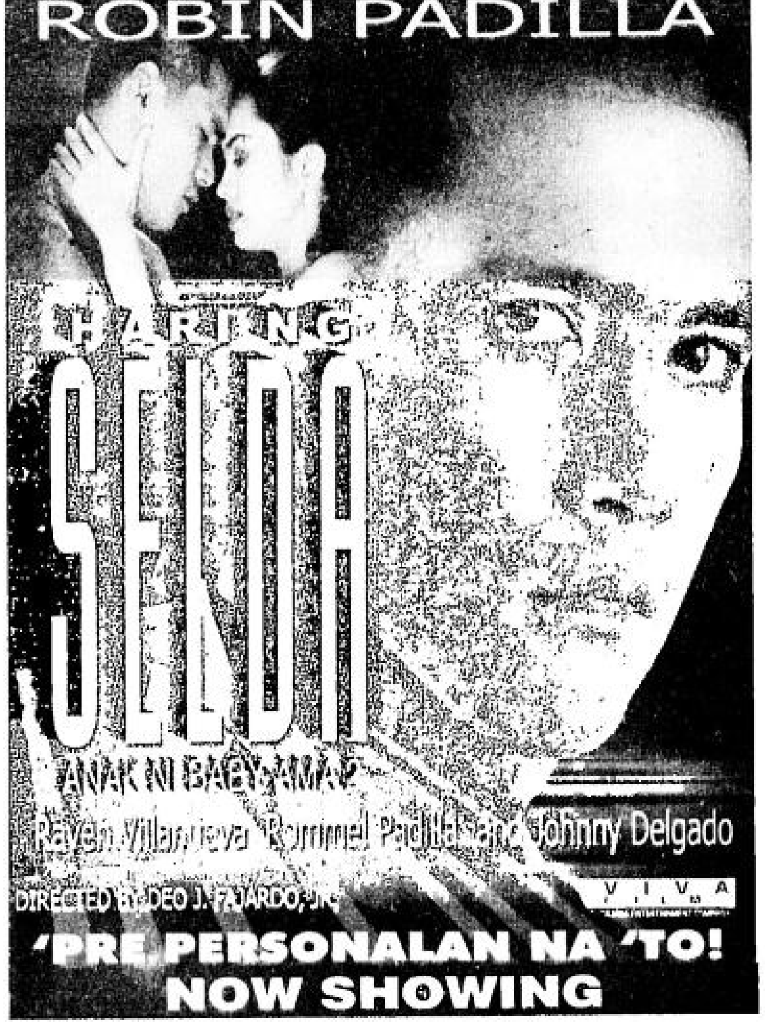
NGAYON, MAY KWENTONG IHAHATID!

ANGELIKA DELA CRUZ
ROBIN PADILLA

HARING SELDA
ANAK NI BABY AMA 2
Raven Villanueva Rommel Padilla and Johnny Delgado
DIRECTED BY DEO J. FAJARDO, JR.
VIVA FILMS
'PRE, PERSONALAN NA 'TO!
NOW SHOWING

Lani: I hate it when I'm compared to Regine

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

LANI Misalucha would have shared the stage with **Brian McKnight** during the American singer's two-night Valentine concert in Manila.

After Lani performed as a guest late last year in "Divas and I," the concert of **Janno Gibbs**, she said an executive from Viva offered her a back-to-back show with McKnight at the Araneta Coliseum.

Lani was excited. "Everything was quiet for a while, then they told me the concert would not push through because Brian was so expensive, they could not afford him in a local production," Lani recalls.

However, she was surprised when she found out Viva had carried out its plan for a Brian McKnight concert, but with **Regine Velasquez** performing with him instead.

"They did not give my manager (**Ronnie Henares**) and me a concrete answer on why they changed the plan," Lani says. "It wasn't explained to us clearly. I felt as if I had been back-stabbed. They could have told me they didn't want me in the show."

Still, Lani didn't hold a grudge against the recording company. She was, in fact, happy that it went to another Viva artist (Regine).

"Ronnie respected their decision and he told me we had to move on," Lani says. "I have to work. I have to deal with them because I have a contract with Viva until June next year. I have another album to release."

Lani's rise to stardom is similar to that of Regine's, especially since the latter used to be managed by Ronnie, too. Now that the two performers are both enjoying stellar status, they are inevitably compared.

But Lani says she hates it when people keep comparing her to Regine. Some show biz insiders even consider her a threat to Regine.

"How can I be a threat to Regine," a seemingly surprised Lani says. "She's so big. She's done a lot of albums. She even has her own recording label. She's also into movies. I'd rather veer away from that intrigue."

Asked if she also wants to make movies like Regine, Lani's eyes light up. "I want to try it," she says. "But the project has to be right and it has to be good."

Lani vows to work harder this year. Her calendar is full of commitments, including a six-night concert series at Onstage in Greenbelt (April 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27), mounted by Crossover 105.1.

Crossover also produced Lani's successful concert at the Araneta Coliseum in September last year.

"Lani On Stage: A Crossover Special" will have **Louie Ocampo** as musical director, **Rowell Santiago** as stage director and **Noel Ferrer** as scriptwriter.

Lani will do a repertoire of songs from the '80s like the hits of **Basia** and **Natalie Cole**, a samba medley and a **Michel Legrand** medley, among others.

"Lani is a true Crossover artist," says **Robert Crespo**, vice president for corporate communications of Mareco Broadcasting, which runs Crossover 105.1.

"She sings the tunes Crossover is known for. She sings R&B and contemporary jazz effortlessly."

Instead of the powerful, lung-busting pieces that Lani is known for, the songs in her Onstage line-up will be of the slow and mid-tempo type, Crossover's kind of music.

"I really want to do easy-listening songs this time because it's an intimate venue," Lani says.

Even before the Lenten break, tickets to the concerts were already sold out, according to Robert. Crossover already wants to book additional nights to extend the series.

In May, Lani will have a concert at Hard Rock Café. June will see her sharing the stage with **Ryan Cayabyab** in the "Amazing Nights" series at The Tent.

In August, her birth month, Lani will leave for the United States for solo concerts in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington D.C. and Miami. She will also do a back-to-back show with **Martin Nievera** in Chicago.

Benefit event

ONE of my favorite night haunts, Dish, on the 3rd level of Rockwell's Power Plant Mall, will host its "Second Celebrity Dish Out" charity event on April 10.

Beneficiary this time is Habitat for Humanity, whose local chairs are INQUIRER chair **Marixi Prieto** and businessman **Fernando Zobel**.

A number of celebrities have agreed to serve as waiters and bartenders during the event, including **Pia Guanio, Mylene Dizon, Derek Ramsey, Sarah Meier, Angel Aquino, Troy Montero, Calvin Millado** and **Vince Hizon**.

The event, which starts at 8 p.m., is cosponsored by Bench, Lush and Paco Rabanne.

Dish is owned by the dynamic triumvirate of **EJ Litton, Philip Cu-Unjieng** and **Rikki Dee**.

'Audience with Kylie'

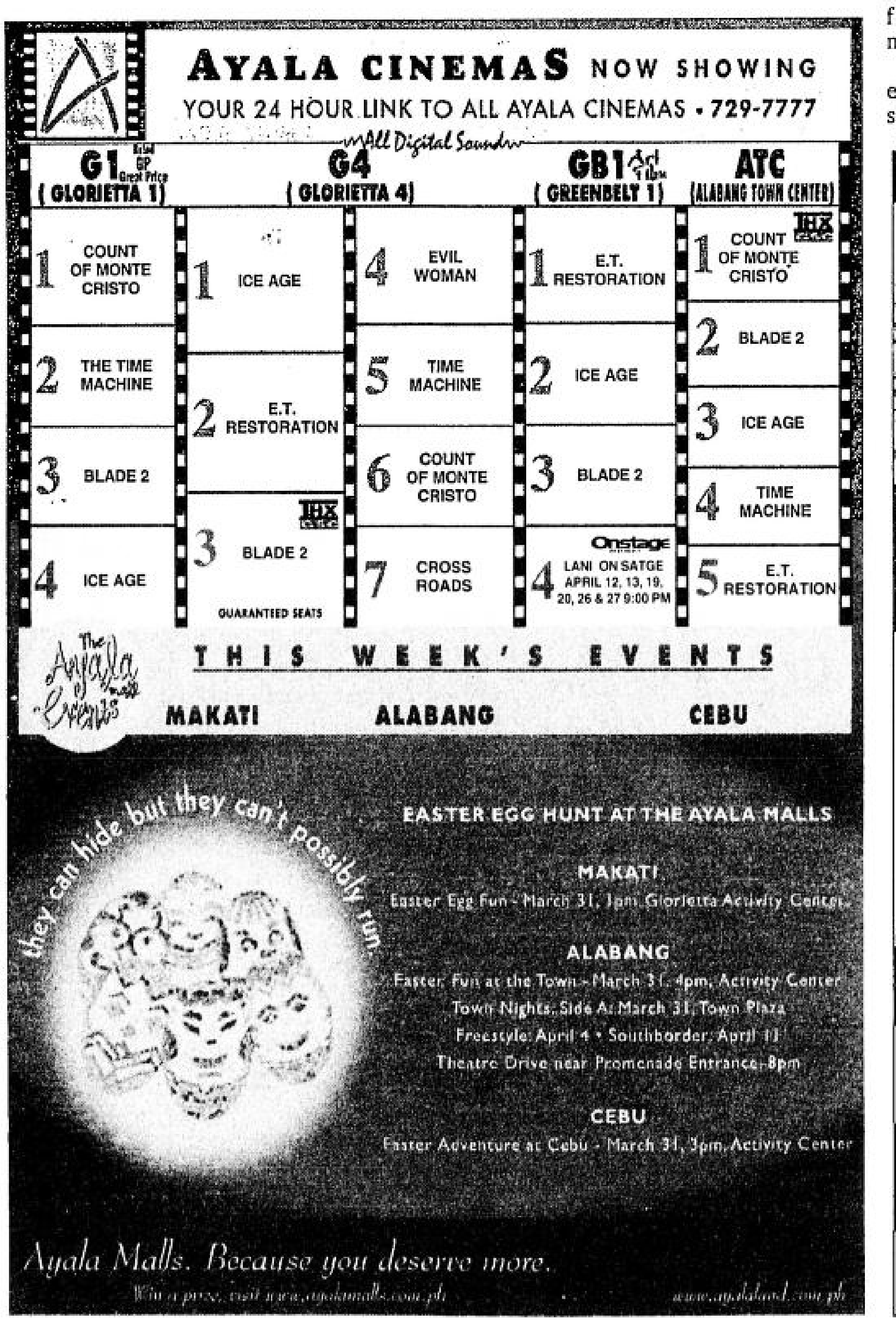
FROM **Gwen Jacinto-Cariño**, PR and marketing executive of Star TV:

"A very special contest will run in conjunction with 'An Audience with **Kylie Minogue**,' which airs May 28 on Star World.

"Star World will give away two prize packages consisting of a pair of tickets to see Kylie Minogue in Barcelona (Spain), round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations and pocket money."

For more details, Gwen suggests that viewers tune in to Star TV which will air promo spots starting May.

MISALUCHA. First concert series at Onstage



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1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO	1 ICE AGE	4 EVIL WOMAN	1 E.T. RESTORATION	1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO THX
2 THE TIME MACHINE	2 E.T. RESTORATION	5 TIME MACHINE	2 ICE AGE	2 BLADE 2
3 BLADE 2	3 BLADE 2 THX GUARANTEED SEATS	6 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO	3 BLADE 2	3 ICE AGE
4 ICE AGE		7 CROSS ROADS	4 Onstage LANI ON SATGE APRIL 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	4 TIME MACHINE
				5 E.T. RESTORATION

The Ayala Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

they can hide but they can't possibly run

EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE AYALA MALLS

MAKATI
Easter Egg Fun - March 31, 1pm, Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG
Easter Fun at the Town - March 31, 4pm, Activity Center
Town Nights: Side A: March 31, Town Plaza
Freestyle: April 4 • Southborder: April 11
Theatre Drive near Promenade Entrance, 8pm

CEBU
Easter Adventure at Cebu - March 31, 3pm, Activity Center

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CINEMA 1 ICE AGE
11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00

CINEMA 2 BLADE 2
12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays.
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MUSIC MUSEUM
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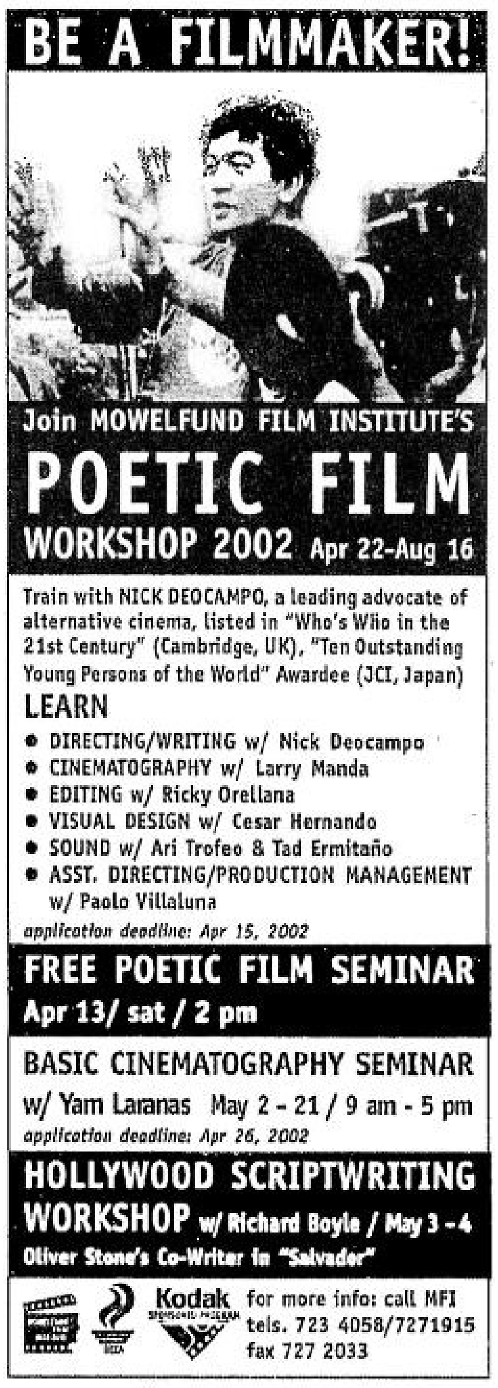

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- EDITING w/ Ricky Orellana
- VISUAL DESIGN w/ Cesar Hernando
- SOUND w/ Ari Trofeo & Tad Ermitaño
- ASST. DIRECTING/PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT w/ Paolo Villaluna

application deadline: Apr 15, 2002

FREE POETIC FILM SEMINAR
Apr 13/ sat / 2 pm

BASIC CINEMATOGRAPHY SEMINAR
w/ Yam Laranas May 2 - 21 / 9 am - 5 pm
application deadline: Apr 26, 2002

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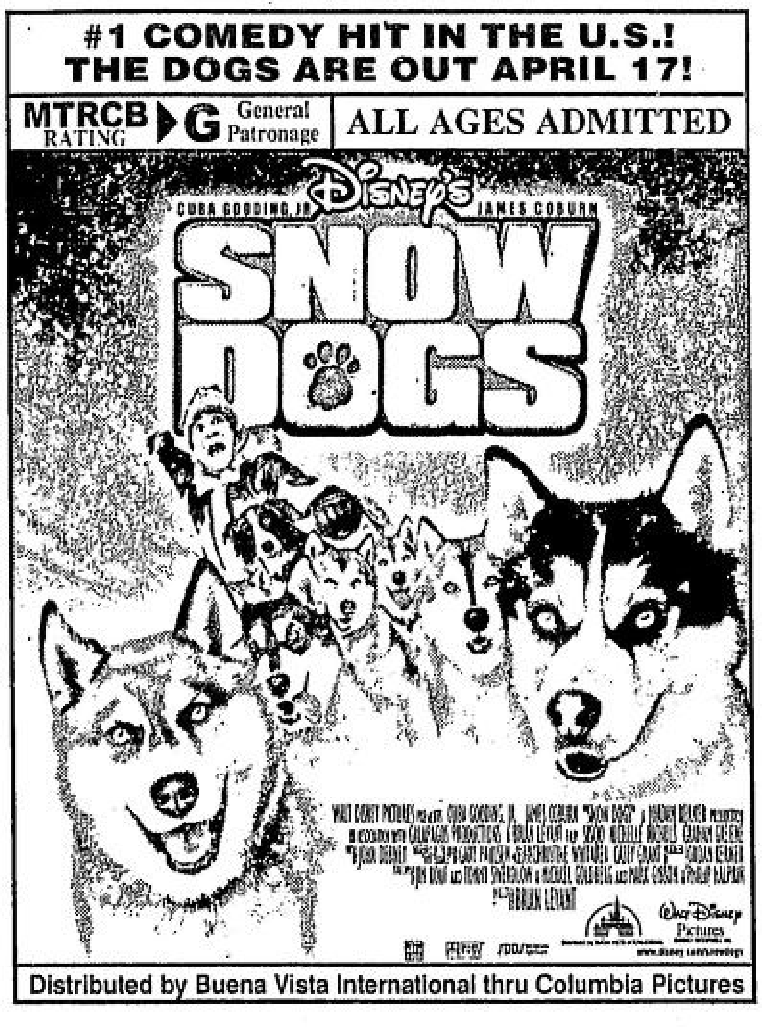
ALLONA AMOR
WINSTON ELIZALDE
CELSO AD CASTILLO
as Mang Tonio
"Heart has its reasons which mind cannot understand."
and introducing
DIANA ZUBIRI
ITLOG
FRANCIS JUN POSADA

"Summer Valentine" in April!
MTRCB RATING PG-13
The stars of "Black Hawk Down" and "She's All That" are paired for the first time in this Year's Most Romantic Comedy about Love with a lot of air!
Josh Hartnett
Rachael Leigh Cook
blow dry
Intermedia MIRAMAX FILMS Solar FILMS INC. IMF



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THE DOGS ARE OUT APRIL 17!
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
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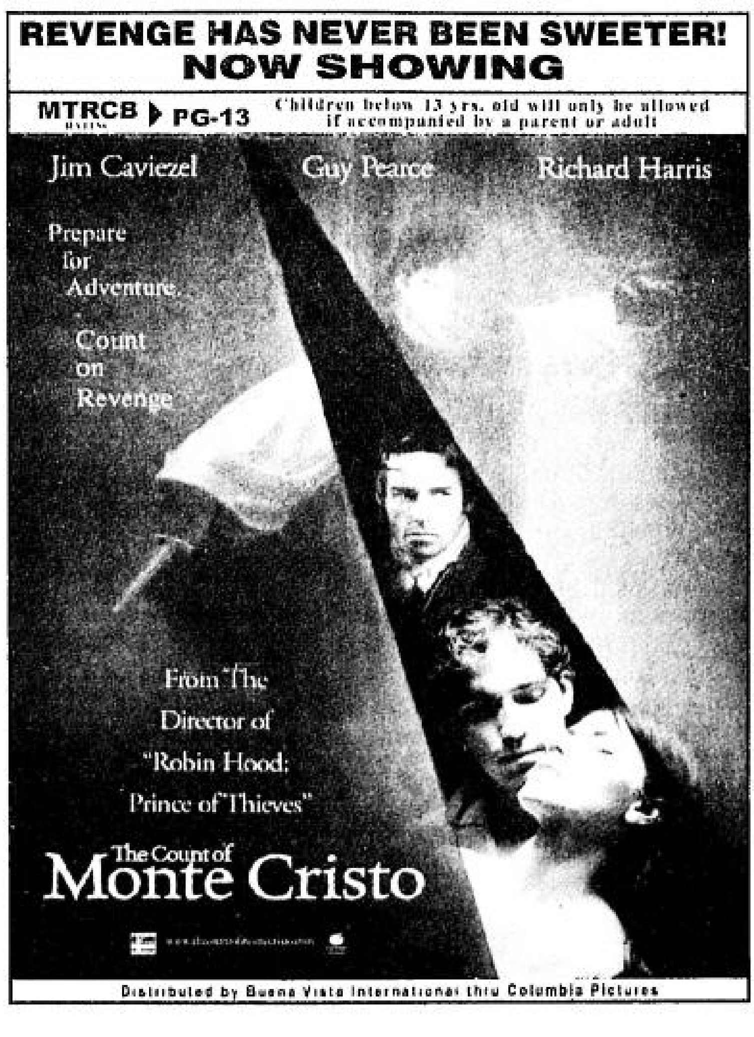
SNOW DOGS
Walt Disney Pictures
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



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Jim Caviezel Guy Pearce Richard Harris
Prepare for Adventure.
Count on Revenge
From The Director of "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves"
The Count of Monte Cristo
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Program tackles summer prevention

"GOOD A.M. Cavite" on 558 RMN News Manila will tackle today precautionary measures to prevent summer accidents and the El Niño phenomenon.

RADIO

Imus Vice Mayor Manny Maliksi pinch-hits for the second and last time for his father, Gov. Ayong Maliksi, on the radio program.

Today's guests are Rene R. Broqueza, provincial consultant on aquaculture and fisheries; Danilo Sanez, Cavite fire chief; and Dr. Vilma Diez, provincial health officer.

Broqueza will talk about how farmers and fishermen can best handle or stave off the disastrous effects of El Niño on food production.

Sanez and Diez will give listeners helpful tips on how to prevent fire and common diseases this summer.

Meanwhile, in the segment "Governor's Report," Gov. Ayong Maliksi who is presently on an official visit to the United States, will report live on the outcome of his meeting with World Bank officials in Washington, D.C. regarding financing for the Cavite Coastal Road extension project.

The radio program is cohosted by John Susi.

Weekly program

IN HER weekly radio program, "Ang Panawagan ng Pangulo" on 738 khz on the AM band, Pres. Macapagal-Arroyo reported that the unemployment rate has dropped from 11.35 percent to 10.3 percent, since she assumed the presidency a year ago.

This means that 1.5 million new jobs were added to the labor market.

Macapagal also cited her administration's efforts in looking for employment for new college graduates through job fairs.

She said in commencement exercises she attended recently in San Pablo City in Laguna, there were 600 openings for 500 graduates and another 1,300 openings for 500 graduates in Camarines Sur.

The President said the jobs were mostly service-oriented like in call centers, banks, retail marketing and sales.

"Ang Panawagan ng Pangulo" airs nationwide every Monday starting 7:30 a.m.

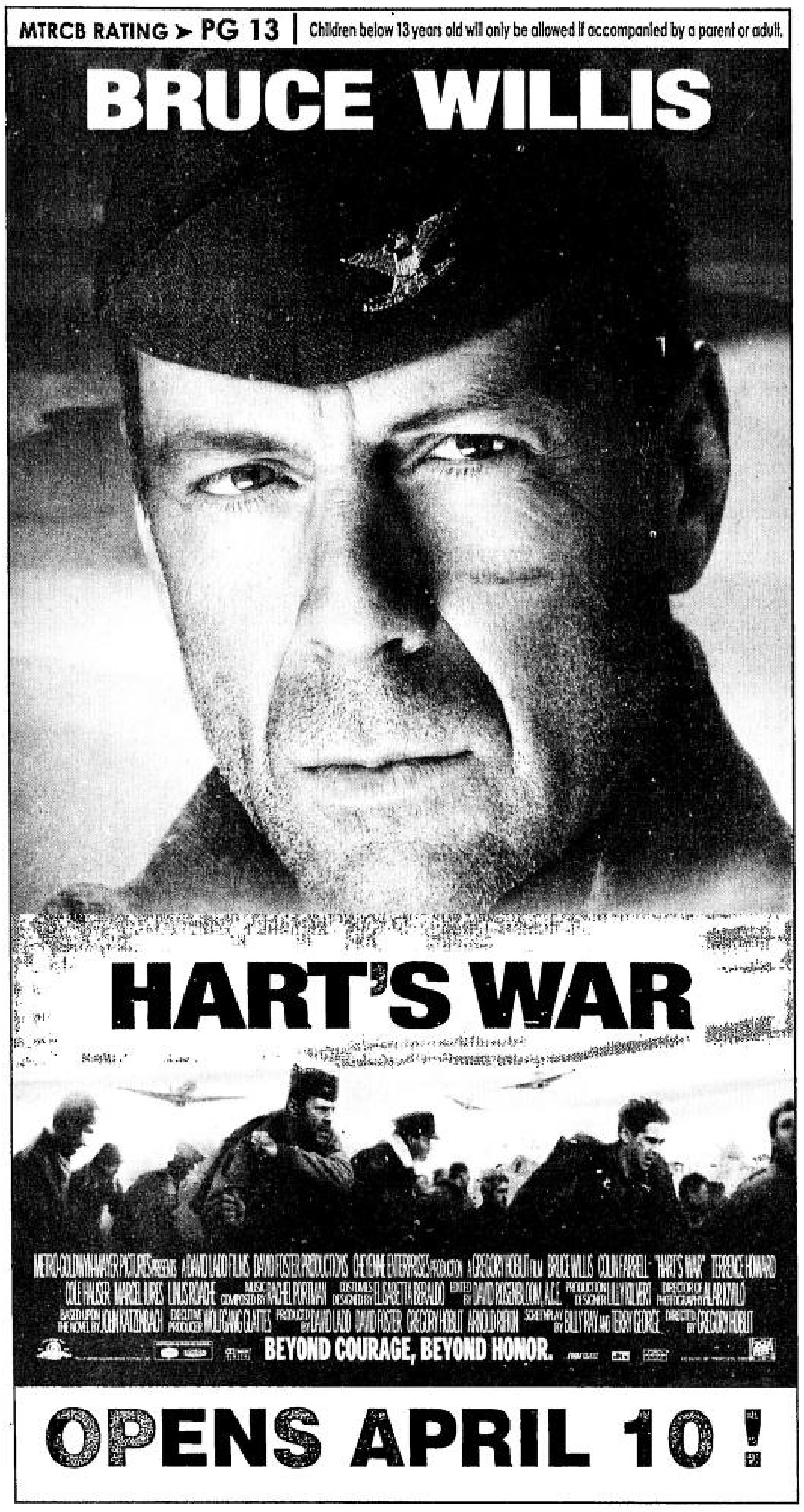
Summer promo

GET a chance to go to some of the hottest resorts for free through Yes-FM's "Summer Yes-capade 2002," by simply tuning in to the station and calling 840-4747.

Yes-FM will treat listeners to an all-expense paid trip to Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Cavite on April 21 and Jed's Island Resort in Calumpit, Bulacan, on April 28.

Yes-FM jocks will join winners in a fans' day celebration and a whole day of fun and exciting games, with special prizes at stake.

PROGRAM/ A26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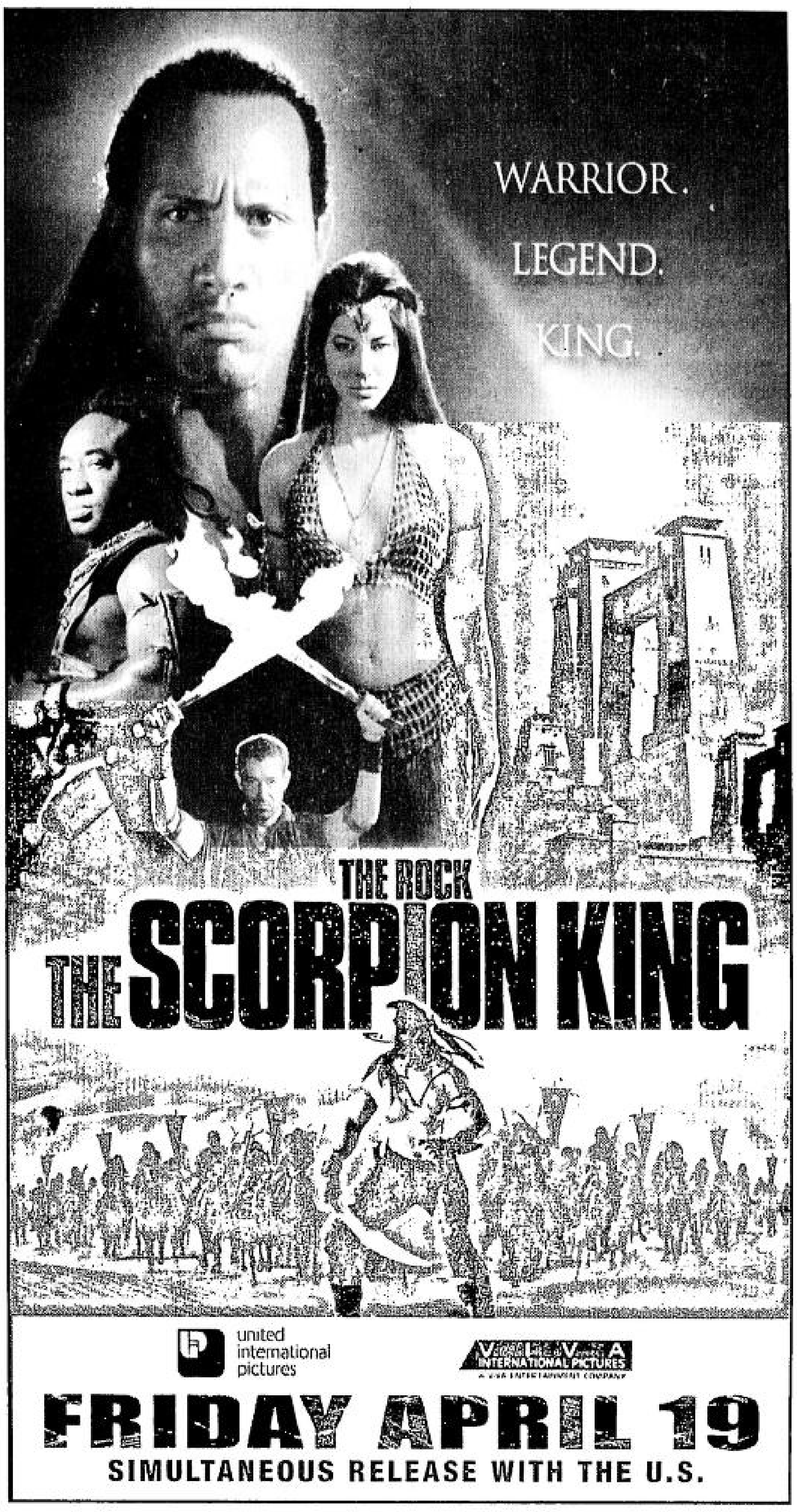
BRUCE WILLIS
HART'S WAR
METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURES PRESENTS A DAVID LADD FILMS DAVID FOSTER PRODUCTIONS CHEYENNE ENTERPRISES PRODUCTION A GREGORY HOBLIT FILM BRUCE WILLIS COLIN FARRELL "HART'S WAR" TERRENCE HOWARD COLE HAUSER MARCEL IURES LINUS ROACHE MUSIC COMPOSED BY RACHEL PORTMAN COSTUMES DESIGNED BY ELISABETTA BERALDO EDITED BY DAVID ROSENBLOOM, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER LILLY KILVERT DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALAR KIVILO BASED UPON THE NOVEL BY JOHN KATZENBACH EXECUTIVE PRODUCER WOLFGANG GLATTES PRODUCED BY DAVID LADD DAVID FOSTER GREGORY HOBLIT ARNOLD RIFKIN SCREENPLAY BY BILLY RAY AND TERRY GEORGE DIRECTED BY GREGORY HOBLIT
BEYOND COURAGE, BEYOND HONOR.
OPENS APRIL 10 !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LEGEND.
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THE ROCK
THE SCORPION KING
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VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
FRIDAY APRIL 19
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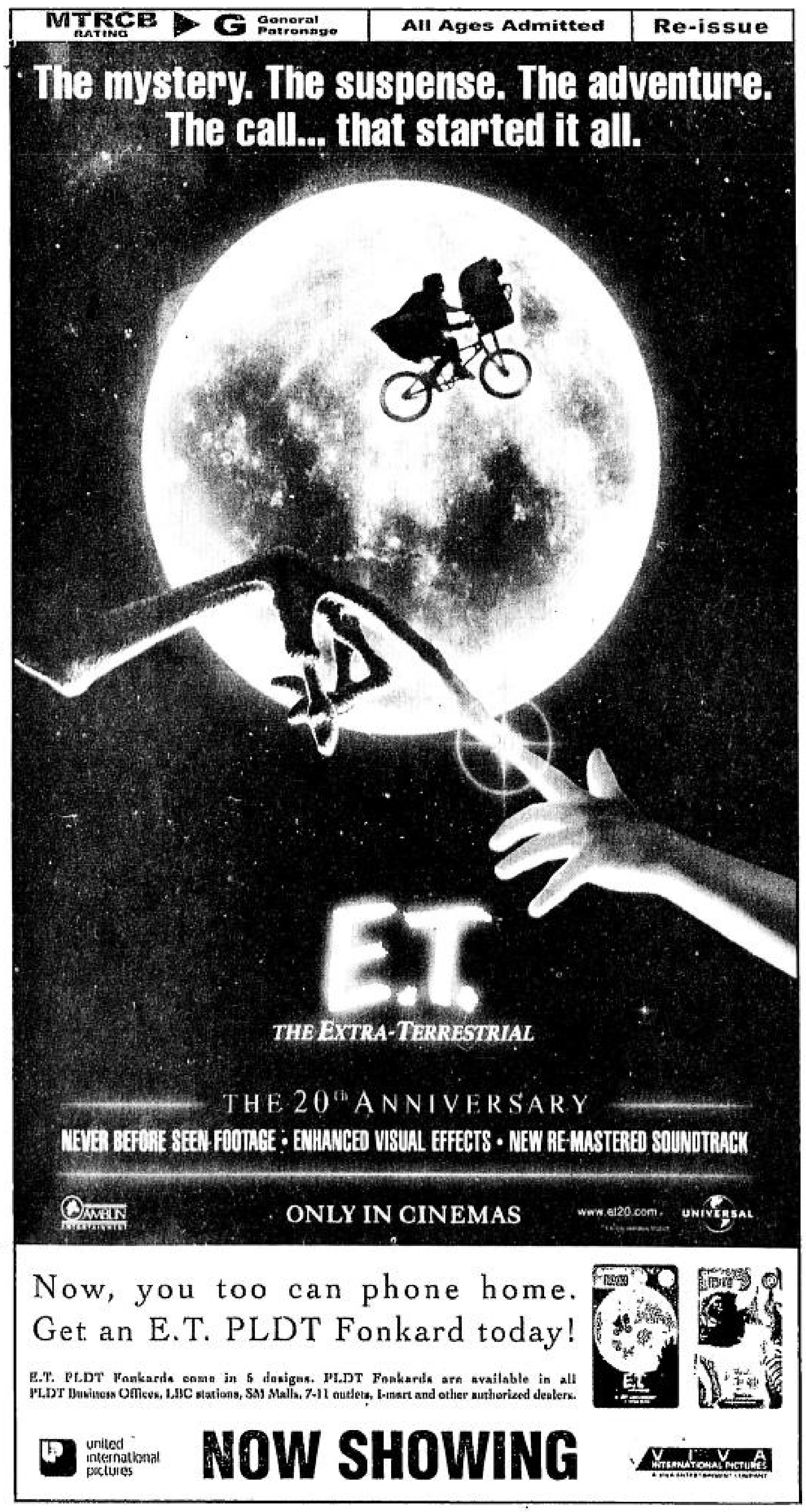
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MAUI TAYLOR
S2PID LUV
KRISTINE JAKA MICHAEL FLORES
DIRECTED BY AL TANTAY
VIVA
OPENS APRIL 10!

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Suspense and empathetic appeal

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE LATEST film version of **Alexandre Dumas'** "The Count of Monte Cristo" initially looks like an anachronism, a dated tale of revenge, love and derring-do that is too black-and-white for today's less stereotype-fixated viewers. After a while, however, the movie begins to come into its own as a larger-than-life adventure-drama for any age.

What energizes this new production is its eventful plotting. While it basically follows the original storyline in Dumas' novel, it speeds up the developments and adds little twists and turns that keep its protagonist adds little twists to danger, bousting the movie's suspense and empathetic appeal.

Thus, we see how Edmond Dantes (**Jim Caviezel**) is put behind bars by his supposed best friend (**Guy Pearce**), who marries Dantes' fiancée barely six months after his incarceration.

In his impregnable prison, Dantes ends up losing all hope after years spent in solitary—until another prisoner, a priest, breathes new life into him by including him in his plan to escape. Even better, he trains both Dantes' body and mind, and provides him with the map to a fabulous hidden treasure that he can use to fund his vengeance, after he stages an "impossible" escape.

Thus does the film cause a number of potent themes to resonate with each other—injustice, betrayal, love turned to hatred, God's mysterious ways, revenge, and righteous retribution.

True, there's little that's new about the thematic points and insights that the movie shares, but the treatment and progression are dynamic enough to sustain viewers' interest and involvement.

In addition, welcome contrast is provided by Dantes' relatively lighthearted interlude with some Italian smugglers, who teach him how to survive and triumph in the vicious world, in instructive counterpoint to the humanistic education he had gotten from the priest.

Caviezel may be a relatively new lead player, but he makes a dynamic and empathetic protagonist for an adventure-morality drama like this. Pearce is more studied in his performance, but he comes of as an arch but chilling villain as well.

The film's final confrontation is rather tame compared to the exciting sequences that have previously transpired. Also, the prison sequences occasionally feel tedious and soon overstay their welcome.

On the whole, however, the movie keeps its proceedings eventful and thematically persuasive, so the production works on the level of enthusiastic if not particularly insightful entertainment.

Focus on Jim Caviezel

"THE COUNT of Monte Cristo" is Jim Caviezel's biggest break as film star because the role he plays is at the story's storm center, but it isn't his first lead role, by any means. It was the famous director **Terrence Malick** who launched his stellar career when he plucked him from relative obscurity to star in the World War II epic, "The Thin Red Line."

Since that compelling showcase, Caviezel has played important roles in a number of features, including **Ang Lee**'s "Ride With the Devil," "Frequency" with **Dennis Quaid**, **Mimi Leader**'s "Pay It Forward," and "Angel Eyes" with **Jennifer Lopez.** His next film is **Carl Franklin**'s "High Crimes."

Caviezel has been doing so well as an actor that it comes as a surprise to learn that acting was farthest from his mind when he was growing up in Mt. Vernon, in Washington. His childhood dream was to be a professional basketball player.

Kuh for God, and for a cause

By Liezel Ocampo
Contributor

REVIEW

POP diva Kuh Ledesma is also known for being ready to support a worthy cause, whether it's the environment, fighting poverty or speaking out against politicians who don't do their jobs.

She did it again last March 25 when she performed in a show at the Puerta Real Gardens in historic Intramuros for the benefit of the Power Network International Foundation (PNIF). The PNIF is dedicated to finding, training, equipping, and empowering young leaders.

The show is called "For The Love Of . . ." It aimed to raise funds to support a nationwide free leadership training program for Filipino youths. The program will in turn set into motion another worthy cause—the group's WAP (War Against Poverty) Power Events.

Kuh didn't just sing. She even agreed to model for the artists of the Saturday Group. The finished works were exhibited and sold (some were raffled off as a come-on to those who bought tickets for as much as P5,000 a seat) to help raise funds for the PNIF programs. The Saturday Group agreed to donate 30 percent of the proceeds of the sales to help PNIF.

Nearly all the songs in the Intramuros show spoke of hope, rebirth, faith in God, nationalism, unity, love and friendship.

From the first song until the very last, Kuh proved why she is the diva of divas: Her voice soared, strong and clear, even when the sound system was popping and crackling all throughout, prompting Kuh to remark, "*May* fireworks *pala dito sa* Intramuros."

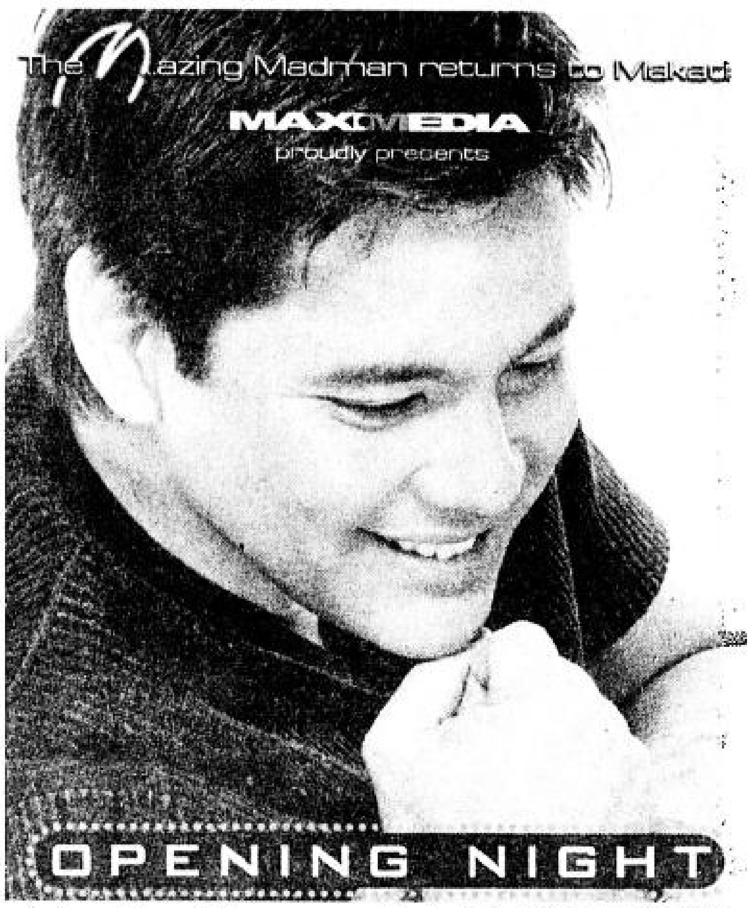
She sang two Streisand songs, the very touching "If I Could" as footage of her daughter Isabella, showing her from infancy to the present, played out on a giant video screen in the background.

Then Kuh brought out the real thing, Isabella herself, to do two duets with her. Isabella has developed into a truly fine singer. Isabella will also be her mom's special guest in a repeat of her inspirational concert, "On Higher Ground," at the Music Museum on April 12 and 13.

Special guest Jamie Rivera (who said she'd been waiting all of 15 years to duet with Kuh) came out to sing the inspirational hit "Heal Our Land," after which she did a solo of "My Life is in Your Hands."

Kuh, who says she became a serious Born-Again Christian four years ago, recounted to the audience how God has changed her life. And to the viewers' credit, they actually applauded her instead of making snide remarks about her having turned into, as she put it that night, a "Jesus freak."

But even if she is, Kuh does look happier and so much more at peace. Who's to say that's not a good thing?



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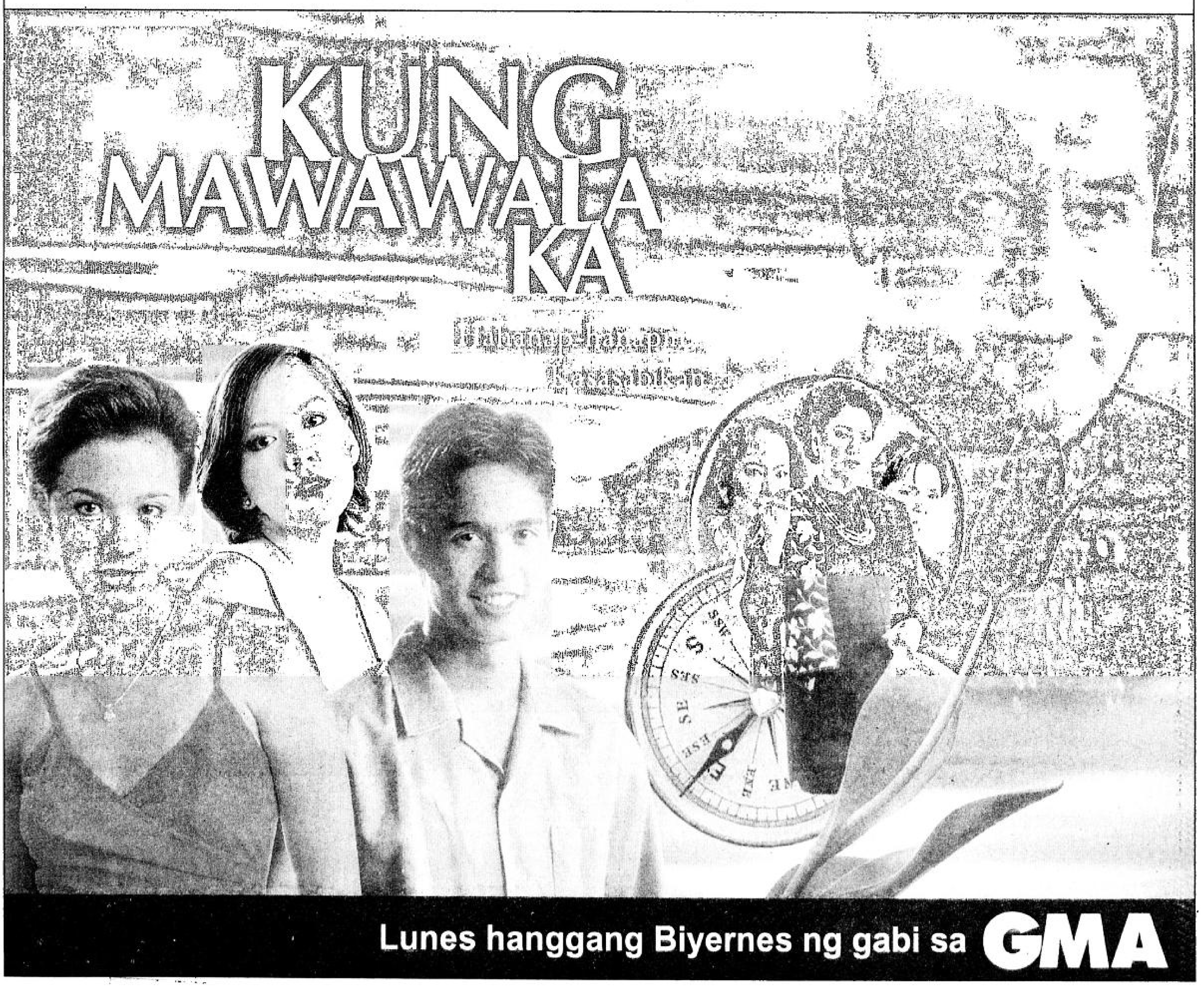

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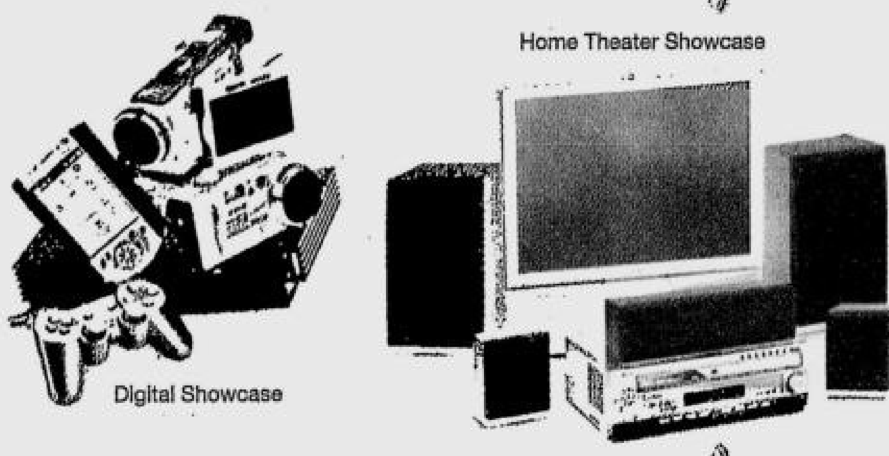

Weekly Draws

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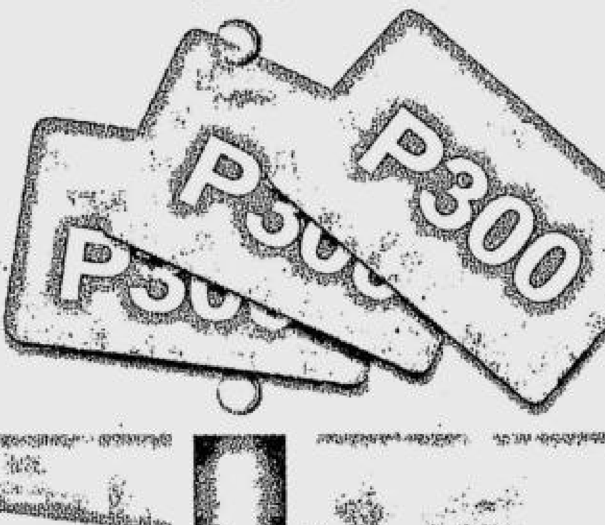

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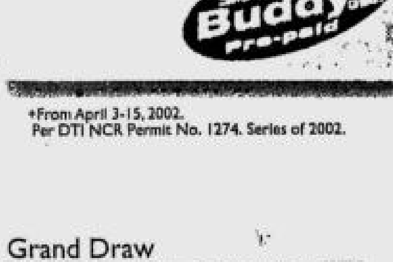

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28		500
June 4	P300 worth of call and text credit	500
11		500
18		500
25		500
July 2		500

Monthly Draws

Draw Date	[illegible]	No. of Winners
May 7	Home Theater* or Digital** Showcase	1
June 4	Home Theater* or Digital** Showcase	1
July 2	Home Theater* or Digital** Showcase	1

Grand Draw

Draw Date	[illegible]	No. of Winners
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday Biz

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ■ Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE YOUNG Dizon when he was just starting to climb the corporate ladder.

Poor barrio boy who would be president

By Michelle V. Remo

THE MAN behind the success story of Philam Plans, one of the leading companies in the preneed industry, came from humble beginnings.

And the story of how Philam Plans maintains and strives to improve its position in the market can be told by how its CEO rose from the ranks through sheer determination. Lawyer Eliseo P. Dizon Jr., president and CEO of Philam Plans who has lead the company since its inception in 1989, used to do household chores, run errands and take care of a blind uncle to pursue his goal of finishing his studies.

DIZON during his stay at Pacific Plans as administrative manager.

These he did so he could stay in his aunt and uncle's home while going to a high school far from his own home.

This rags-to-riches guy often tells his people, "If a poor boy who comes from a barrio can become company president, then people with better circumstances and resources have no reason not to succeed."

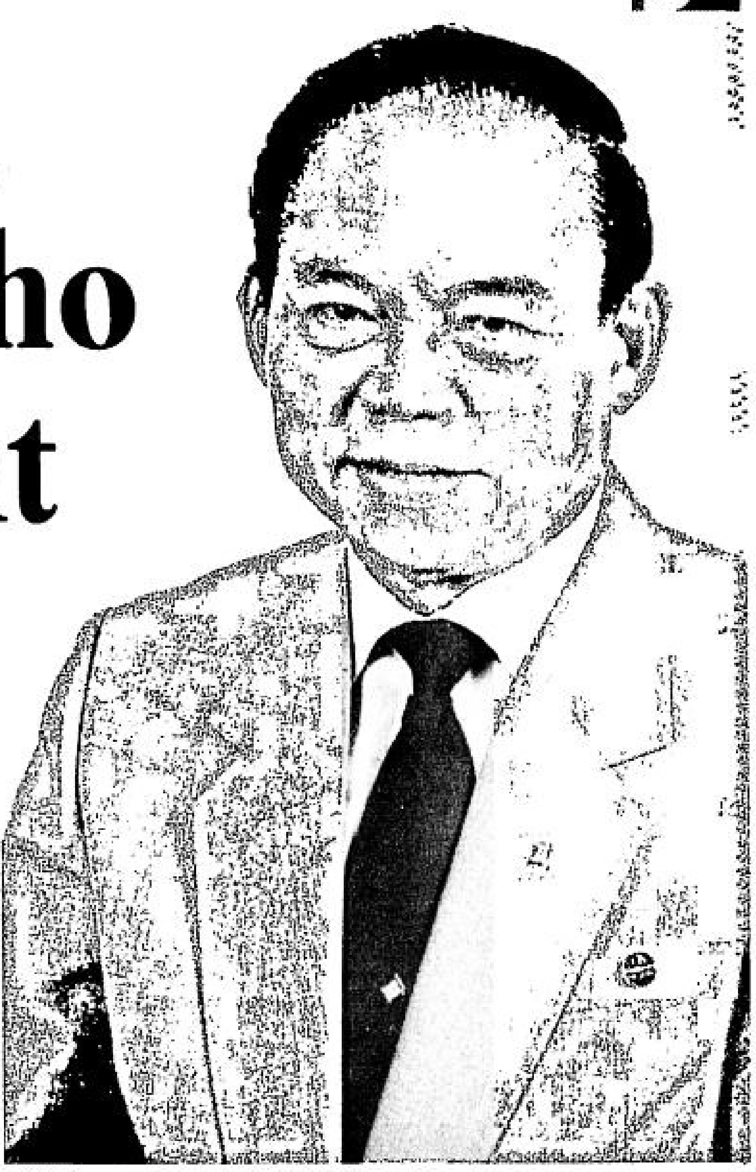
Dizon, the second of four children, was raised in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija. His father was a clerk in the National Rice and Corn Administration while his mother was a housewife.

He recalls how he had to walk 7 kilometers every day to go to the nearest elementary school, just so he could spare his parents from the burden of providing his fare.

Aware of how difficult it was to live in poverty, Dizon told himself, "I will go to school, get a good job and provide well for my own family so that they won't go through what I did."

Inspired

Rather than being brought down to his knees by his circumstances, he was inspired to do better.



DIZON as president and CEO of Philam Plans.

After his elementary graduation came the time Dizon had to ask his aunt and uncle to allow him to stay in their house—a favor he is grateful for until now.

FIRST JOB

Since he couldn't pay for board and lodging, he asked the two if he could work for them instead. Dizon then got his first "job."

"I cleaned the house, I cooked. I also fetched water because there was no running water in their place," recalled Dizon.

Since his uncle was blind, one of his tasks was to take care of him. He said he usually read newspapers, the Reader's Digest and other books for his uncle.

"That's probably why I learned a lot because of the readings I had to do for him," said Dizon.

POOR/B4

FLASHBACK

DIZON with sweetheart, now wife, Fe Vera-Dizon.

IN 1959, a year after Dizon entered the corporate world after college and worked as a clerk typist, Alaska and Hawaii, respectively, became the 49th and the 50th states of the United States of America.

That was also the year when the first case of HIV virus infection was traced by researchers and the peso was pegged at P2 to a dollar.

Some of the well-known local films in that year were "Pitong Gatang," "Baby Face," "Anak ng Bulkan," "Aawitan Kita," "Tuko sa Madre Cacao," "Kundiman ng Lahi" and "Alipin ng Palad."

Meanwhile, the films "Some Like It Hot," "North by Northwest" and "Ben-Hur" were some of the most popular in the international movie industry.

It was also the year when fans mourned the passing of singing sensation Ritchie Valens who died in a plane crash.

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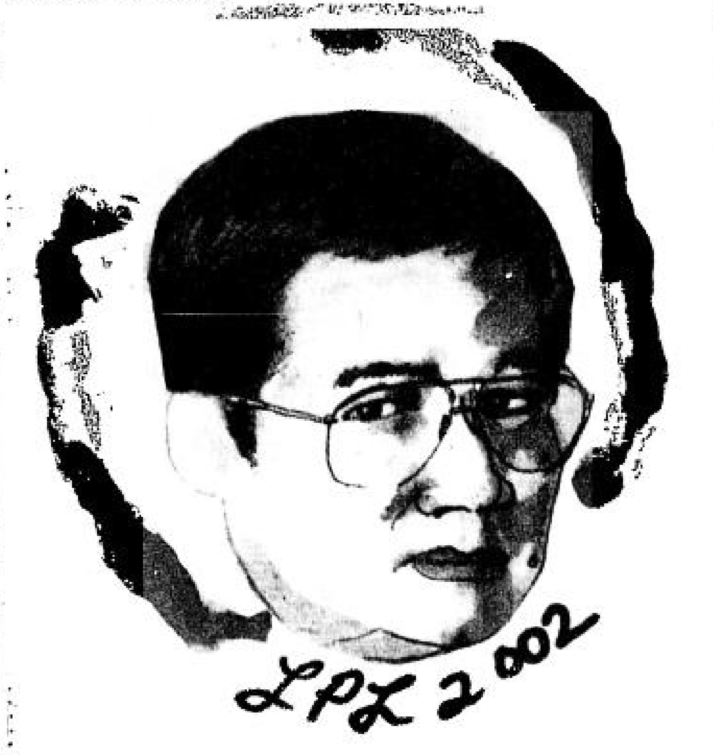
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1266, Series of 2002

IN YOUR FACE

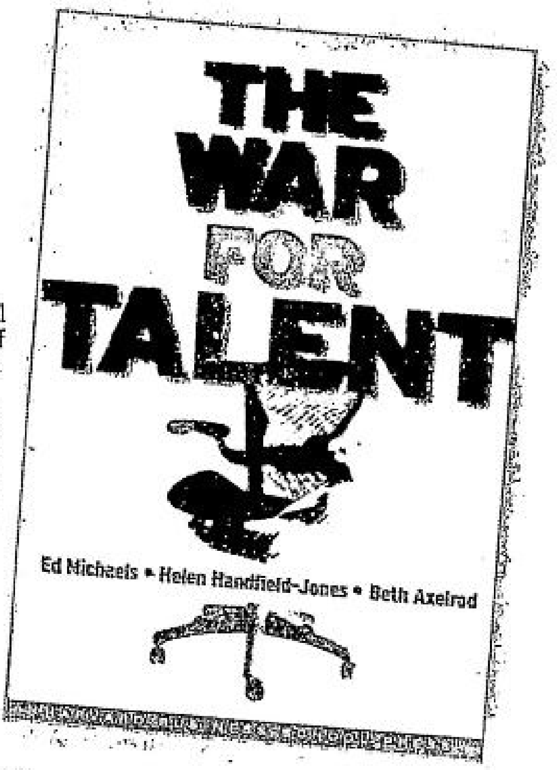
BY L.P. LEVISTE



MERALCO president Jesus P. Francisco is in hot waters these days due to public's outrage over company plans to hike power rates. He says the Meralco needs to adjust rates to improve service. The question is, will the public believe Meralco?

Finance Secretary Jose Camacho inducted the new officers of the Chamber of Thrift Banks during its annual conve ntion entitled "Working for a Revitalized Economy." From left: Rogerio B. Panlasigui, director; Susan R. Figueras, FVP; Rogelio M. Florete 2nd VP; Evangeline C. Escobillo, treasurer; Virgilio M. Morada, secretary; Ma. Flordelis F. Aguenza, president; Finance Secretary Camacho; Belen Castro, director; Reynato Sarmiento, auditor; and directors Violeta M. Inocencio, Dionisio C. Ong, Lolita A. Simpao, Aurelio R. Montinola III and Rodulfo F. Besinga.

Recruit top guns, then shoot for No. 1



"The War for Talent"
by Ed Michaels, Helen Handfield-Jones
and Beth Axelrod
Harvard Business School Press, 2001

By Dante M. Velasco

EXECUTIVE READ

ON the need to prevent another Enron-like collapse, my friend Glendon Rowell of Boyden Global Executive Search pointed out that "more professionalism in recruitment is more important than tighter regulation and governance."

(Enron, erstwhile much-admired corporation in America, suddenly collapsed, throwing thousands out of a job, sending shock waves to markets around the world, and prompting government regulators to look for other organizations or practices to blame.)

What Mr. Rowell is saying is that executive talent is a very important factor in defining and directing an organization's future, and in making it adhere to ethical principles.

An organization's executive pool also influences a firm's competitiveness—and, therefore, viability.

The book, "The War for Talent," declares: "Talent is now a critical driver of corporate performance."

Based on extensive research and case studies from 1997 to 2001, the authors—all from McKinsey & Company—summarize their findings thus: "What distinguished the high-performing companies from the average-performing was not better HR, but the fundamental belief in the importance of talent."

Are there leadership gaps in your organization that adversely affect its performance? Are you constrained by the policy of "promoting from within," giving more premium to seniority than outstanding performance?

Read about an overworked executive who witnessed the plunge of his company from a glorious history—because he settled for mediocre executives. And then follow him, after he heeded the advice of Jack Welch of General Electric and Wayne Callaway (then of PepsiCo)—including Stephen Spielberg. What gospel truth did he stumble on?

They told him that they spend half of their time on people: recruiting new talent, picking the right people for particular positions, grooming young stars, developing global managers, dealing with underperformers and reviewing the entire talent pool.

The guy is Les Wexner, CEO of The Limited who built a retailing and marketing marvel which included "Victoria's Secret," Bath & Body Works, et al. In 1990, his stocks plunged.

But after three years hiring and using top guns, the company's profits have grown from $285 million to $445 million, and his stock price has almost doubled.

A "new business reality" has entered the corporate scene, says the book. What happened? The authors observe that companies' reliance on talent increased dramatically over the last century. In 1900, only 17 percent of all jobs required knowledge workers; now over 60 percent do.

The book quotes Cisco CEO John Chambers, who put it this way: "A world-class engineer with five peers can outproduce 200 regular engineers."

What "business reality" is staring us in the face? For one, the book says, we had the belief in the past that "people need companies." Today, "companies need people."

Two structural forces are fueling the war, the book says. First, the power has shifted from the corporation to the individual. Second, excellent talent management has become a crucial source of competitive advantage.

In the past, executives looked at a 30-year horizon, good salary and retirement package. Now, their horizon is only five years, and retirement is a remote possibility.

The old recruiting strategy of advertising for job hunters has given way to the aggressive effort to tap passive candidates. "We now reach people who are not looking."

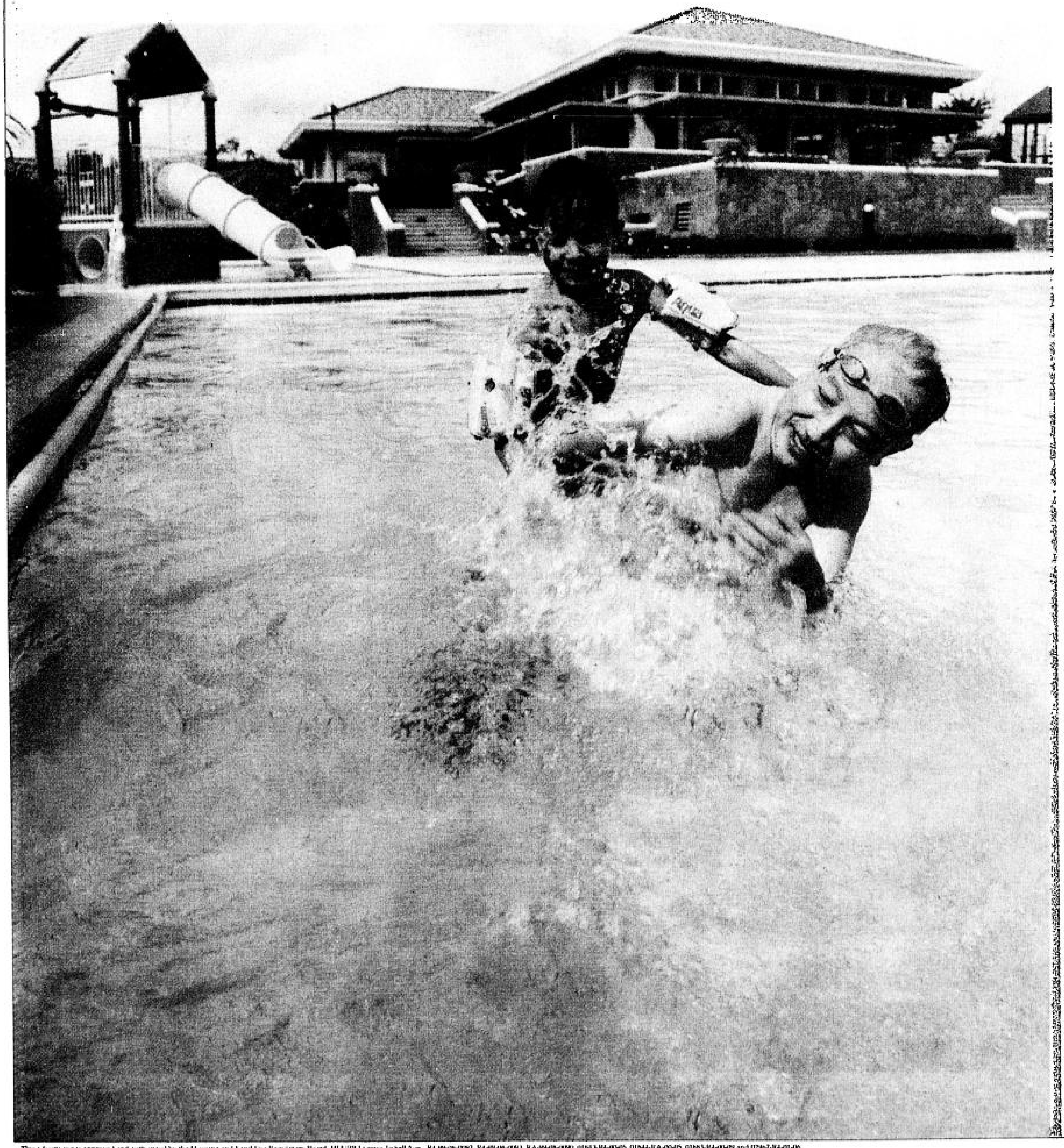
Something else is also happening in companies in more developed economies. They are now breaking away from the traditional "hire-from-within policy." Even if the failure rates of senior external hires hover around 30 percent, companies still think it's well worth the risk.

"The War for Talent" is a useful resource book, not only for CEOs needing to infuse new blood—and, perhaps, new energy in their firms—but also for all leaders who want to keep the best, train those with great potential—and deal with mediocre performers "with an iron hand and a velvet glove."

The book also reveals the emergence of a new profession. It's public knowledge that today's intermediaries for recruitment are executive search professionals. Now enter "talent agents"—who are not any different from agents of superstars.

Close on the heels of the collapse of Enron (which, curiously is featured glowingly in the book—probably to the regret of the authors), Boyden's Rowell volunteers that—aside from vision and superior strategy—organizations need leaders of integrity.

The headhunter's comment enriches, not contradicts, the book's thesis that the right (from ethical and precision standpoint) executive talent truly drives organizations well into the future. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*



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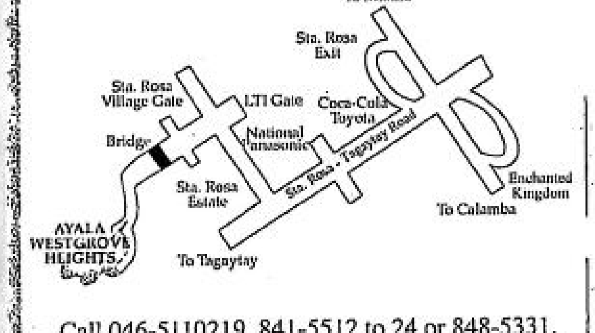

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Bicol sugar industry emerges from bankruptcy

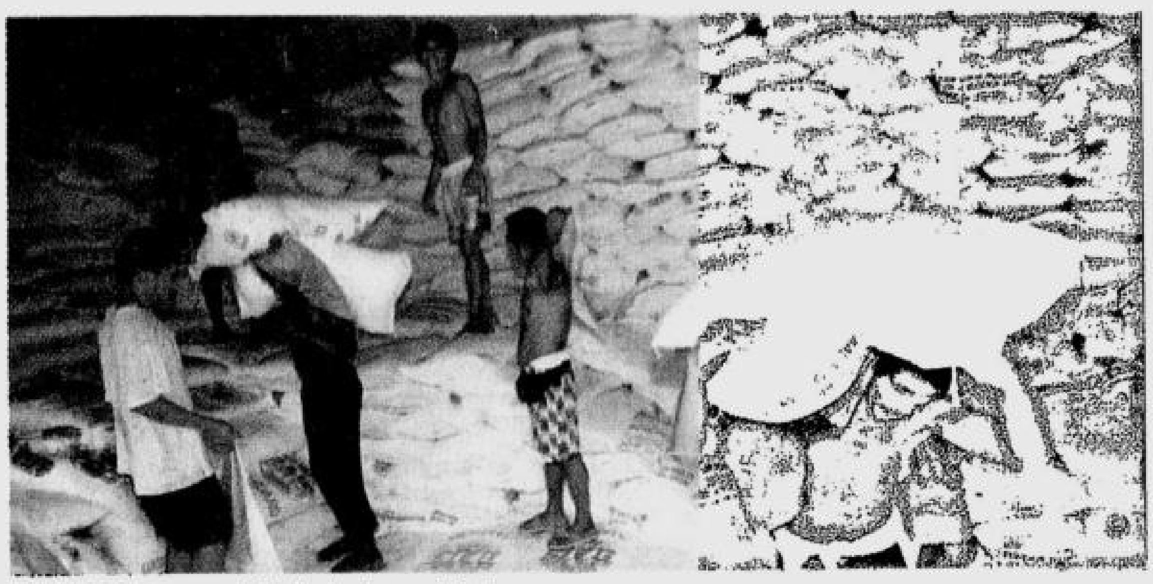
NAGA CITY—When nine years ago a group of private individuals took over the Bicol Sugar Development Corp. (Bisudeco), the one and only sugar mill and milling enterprise in the region set up by the government in 1973, it was in a state of decay.

Needing some P50 million for repair, the symbol of the emergence of the sugar industry in Bicol from the womb of the Marcos dictatorship was a corporate wreck in 1993.

Earlier, for 17 years, the Bisudeco operated like a giant parasite that gobbled up at least P1.7 billion of government funds, which the Philippine National Bank provided generously.

Of the total capital outlay spent, the Philippine Sugar Corp. contributed 29 percent.

Financially devastated, Bisudeco closed shop after Edsa I, and what was left of it were a few decrepit trucks that were still in running condition. All other pieces of equipment were gone.



BISUDECO ressurects Bicol's dead sugar industry.

Losing from start

When its life ended, the Bisudeco's closets were full of negative balance sheets—from the start of its corporate life in 1973 to its foreclosure in 1990.

It was a losing operation from beginning till end.

A year after former President Corazon Aquino was installed to power, the Assets and Privatization Trust (APT) declared Bisudeco a non-performing asset. But the PNB foreclosed all its assets three years later.

The APT placed all the remaining Bisudeco assets for public auction at P200 million, which was only about 15 percent of the total funds the government had provided to start and support its losing operations.

In October 1992, the bidding of the Bisudeco assets was won by a 25-member cooperative composed of a member of the clergy, professionals and businessmen in Camarines Sur.

It was only in January 1993, however, that the group took physical possession of the sugar mill and other remaining assets.

Thus the Bicol sugar industry, in general, and the sugar mill, in particular, have reemerged under the tutelage of the private sector named the Bicol Agro-Industrial Producers Cooperative Inc. (Bapci).

To operate the specific business of sugar milling, Bapci established the Peñafrancia Sugar Mill (Pensumil), with lawyer William Enrile as chief executive officer.

Nine years after this cooperative of private persons took over, the company now enjoys profitability.

Without divulging the net worth of their enterprise at present, lawyer Rolando Carandang, Pensumil vice president for labor and legal affairs, said they have paid all their liabilities in the acquisition of Bisudeco's assets and properties.

"We have not experienced losses in our operation since 1993. But in some years, we earned only enough to break even," he said.

Monopoly

Looking back, the Bisudeco could have been a viable government venture, given its virtual monopoly of sugar milling and the absence of local supply of sugar in the entire Bicol.

Carandang, however, knew some of the reasons why the Bisudeco failed.

He said one glaring defect of the Bisudeco was the bloated number of employees, which, he said, had reached at least 700 compared with some 300 regular and seasonal employees of the Pensumil.

He also suspected corruption.

"We have retrieved some documents of the Bisudeco and one particular was a voucher for the payment of an equipment with an amount of P12 million. When bought on the date of the voucher, the equipment cost was only P4 million," Carandang said.

Apparently, the Bisudeco fiasco was swept into the bin of history after the first people power, with nobody made to account for how the huge government money was spent.

The reemergence of the Bicol sugar industry, through the initiative of the Bapci-Pensumil, was the second lease on its life, so to speak, and gave livelihood back to some 6,000 families dependent on sugarcane cultivation.

And there are some 2,000 sugar planters, organized into 21 cooperatives, who mill their sugarcane at the Pensumil.

The organization of 21 cooperatives facilitates the sugarcane planters' transactions with the Pensumil and enables them to have access to lending institutions for their production needs.

Limitations

At present, the supply of raw materials for sugar milling comes from 7,000 hectares of sugarcane plantation in Camarines Sur.

But Carandang said the weather in Bicol and the kind of planting technology used are limitations they have to contend with even as the Pensumil continues to viably operate.

He said the long rainy season here decreases the sugar content of sugarcane milled, which consequently results in a drop in the production of sugar.

But this milling season, Carandang said, an increase of 40 percent in the total sugar production is expected because of the longer dry season last year.

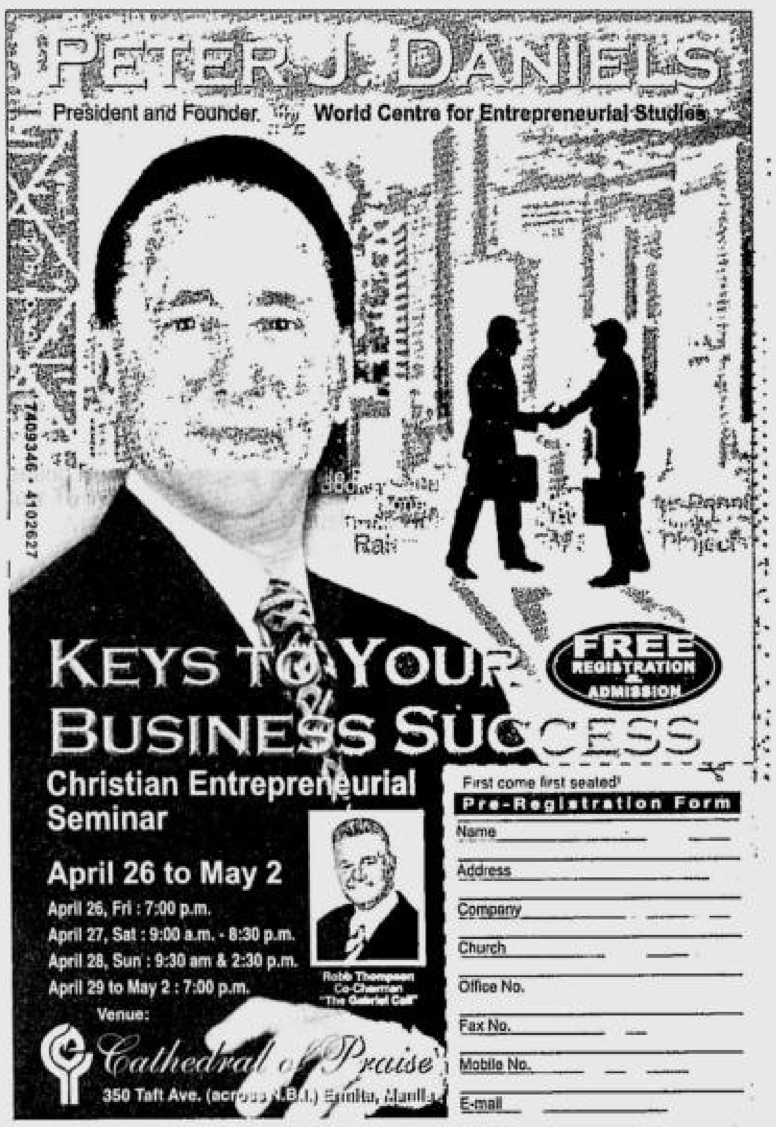
Pensumil's milling season starts in January and ends in May. Sometimes, depending on the volume of sugarcane harvests, milling spills over until June.

It produces an average of 275,000 sacks of sugar production in one year, which is 27.5 percent of the total sugar requirement all over the region.

Amid threats from the effects of economic liberalization brought about by the World Trade Organization and the backward technology the Pensumil uses in sugarcane production and milling, the sugar industry in Bicol could survive.

Carandang said the real threat is the influx of cheaper imported sugar should restrictions on importation begin to be implemented.

For the meantime, the Pensumil official said, the leaders and members of the sugar industry in Bicol hope that all the efforts and hardships they have invested in a once-dead industry will not go to naught. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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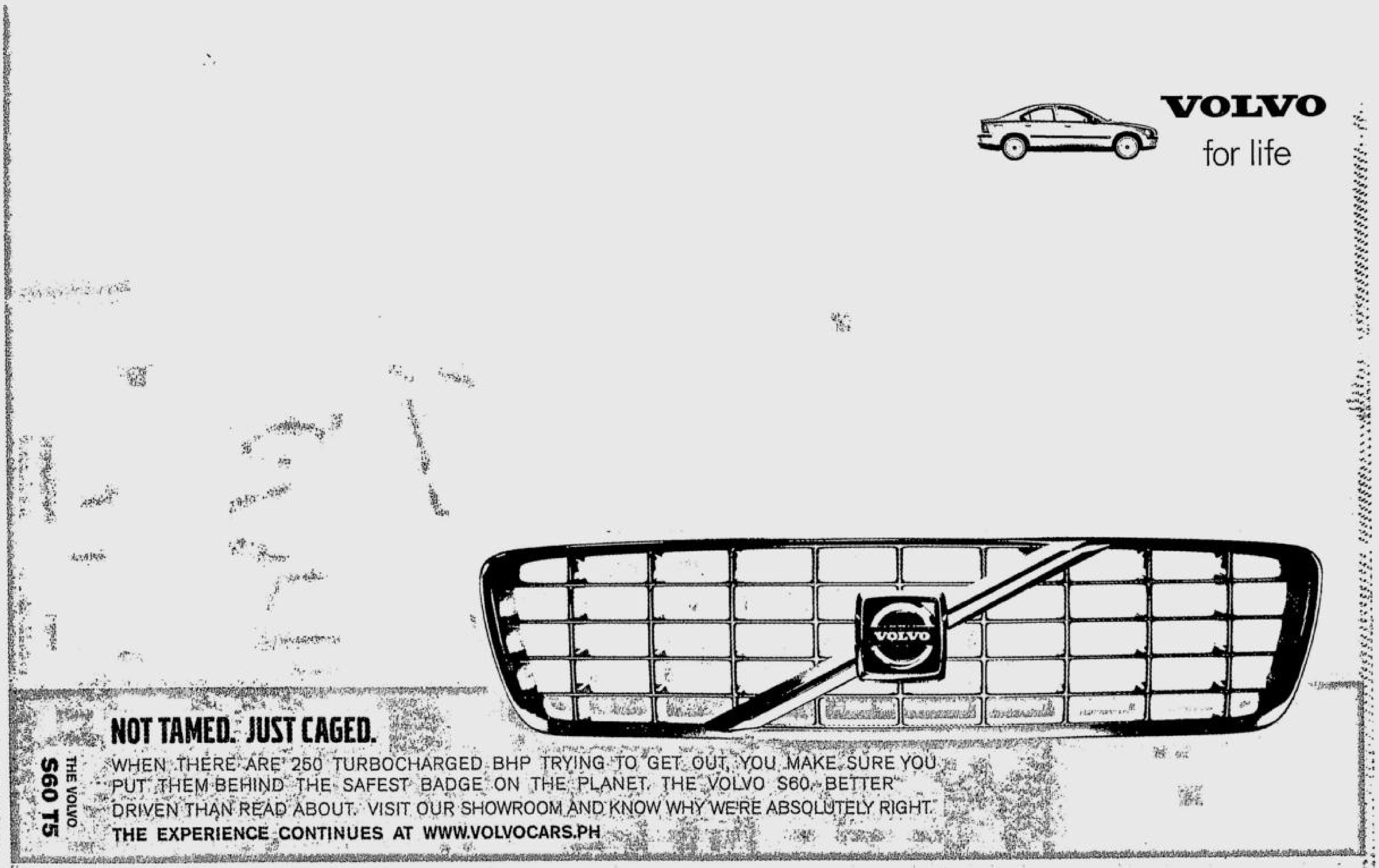
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Passion for wheels turns into a dough-making venture

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

PINOY ENTREPRENEURS

ASK Harley Davidson owners in Saudi Arabia about a good mechanic for their expensive motorcycles and chances are they would point you to Ernie Poliquit, a 38-year-old who has been around motorcycles even during his childhood years in Ormoc, Leyte.

The diminutive but strongly built Poliquit is only one of four Filipino mechanics certified to work on Harley Davidson machines by the Harley Davidson office in Milwaukee and he worked in Saudi Arabia, the biggest Harley Davidson dealership in that part of the world, for five years.

The pay was good and he enjoyed a certain level of prestige as it was not easy to be a Harley Davidson certified mechanic, but he has always longed to go home and make a name for himself here in his native soil.

Poliquit says working for 15 years abroad was enough for him.

Last year he made the plunge and teamed up with businessman and Harley Davidson owner Edgar Rivera to put up Boom Bikes along Batangas Street near the South Superhighway and Gil Puyat Avenue, marking his commitment to stay home for good.

Boom Cycles is a one-stop repair and detailing shop for Harley Davidsons, considered by motorcycle enthusiasts as the best bike among the big cruiser types with engines as big as a compact car.

"We divided the business right down the line. Ernie would provide the technical expertise while I put up the place and also help in the marketing. I also check the motorcycles before they leave the shop to make sure that the repair job is done well," Rivera tells SundayBiz.

Boom Bikes is Poliquit's first major foray into the world of entrepreneurship and although he says it is challenging, he feels more fulfilled working in the Philippines and starting to build a name for himself.

It was a gamble for the two bikers but they were confident that they would attract customers because Poliquit is the lone Harley Davidson-certified mechanic working in the Philippines.

One of the four mechanics passed away while the other two were left behind to take over Poliquit's place as mechanic of the Saudi Arabian dealership.

After two months in operation, it seems that their gamble is starting to pay off as they have not lacked customers and they have been putting in very long hours from 8 in the morning to 10 in the evening.

Rivera attributes the steady stream of customers to the fact that

PASSION/B5

PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

POLIQUIT and Rivera running, roaring business together.

Poor barrio boy...

From page B1

True to his ambition of getting a good education, Dizon finished high school with flying colors and graduated salutatorian.

But since salutatorians only get a 50-percent college scholarship, Dizon was hard pressed to come up with the other half of his tuition. But he did not let this problem stop him as he was bent on going to college.

Dizon, thus, asked the registrar of Wesleyan University of the Philippines in Cabanatuan how he could be admitted for free.

"The registrar told me, 'Well, since you play basketball, you can play for the varsity team and I can give you the other 50 percent,' so I finished college by playing basketball," says Dizon.

He graduated college cum laude with a degree in AB English.

Stenography

While Dizon was excited to have a job after graduation, getting one was not as easy as he initially thought. He said he had a hard time looking for a job since most of the jobs available at that time required someone who knew how to type and do dictation in stenography.

Realizing that he needed to learn these skills, he took a crash course in stenography for three months. And again, with his flair for studying, he excelled in his class and graduated valedictorian.

He finally got a clerical job as a typist in San Leonardo in Nueva Ecija in 1959, but wanting to spread his wings further, Dizon took a shot at going to Manila in search of a more promising future.

In Manila, he first worked at the Social Security System as a clerical aide, but later moved up the corporate ladder to be executive assistant to the commissioner.

His penchant for continuous learning prodded Dizon to study again, this time to take up law at the Lyceum, after which he passed the bar exams.

He then transferred to Singer Sewing Machine Co. as personnel assistant, but was later invited to join Pacific Plans, the pioneer in the pre-need industry.

Working at Pacific Plans gave him his initial background in pre-need. Proving once again that hard work pays, Dizon rose from the ranks at Pacific Plans, starting as administrative manager and ending up as executive vice president.

He was on tap to become president of Pacific Plans. But Philam Plans came knocking.

Good offer

He was wooed by Philam Life to head a subsidiary that it was going to establish—Philam Plans.

While the offer to get the top post in Pacific Plans was tempting, Dizon found the invitation to lead a new company more challenging.

With assistance from the mother company, Dizon was able to focus on recruitment, training and organization of Philam Plans' own sales force until Philam Plans could stand on its own.

Believing in leadership by example, Dizon says he often tells his co-officers at Philam to imbibe the core values of the company—decency, honesty, dedication, compassion, excellence and innovation.

Aware of how employees prefer to have humane bosses and a conducive work environment, Dizon says he showed compassion for people "by thinking of ways to address their needs, including personal ones, in helping the company function and grow."

Practicing these traits while serving as president and CEO of the company was how Dizon spearheaded Philam Plans and soon brought success to the relatively young company.

Dizon says that Philam Plans is currently the No. 2 in terms of market share in the preneed industry, strongly competing with "principal players who have been in the industry for 20, 35 years, compared with the 13 years of Philam Plans' existence."

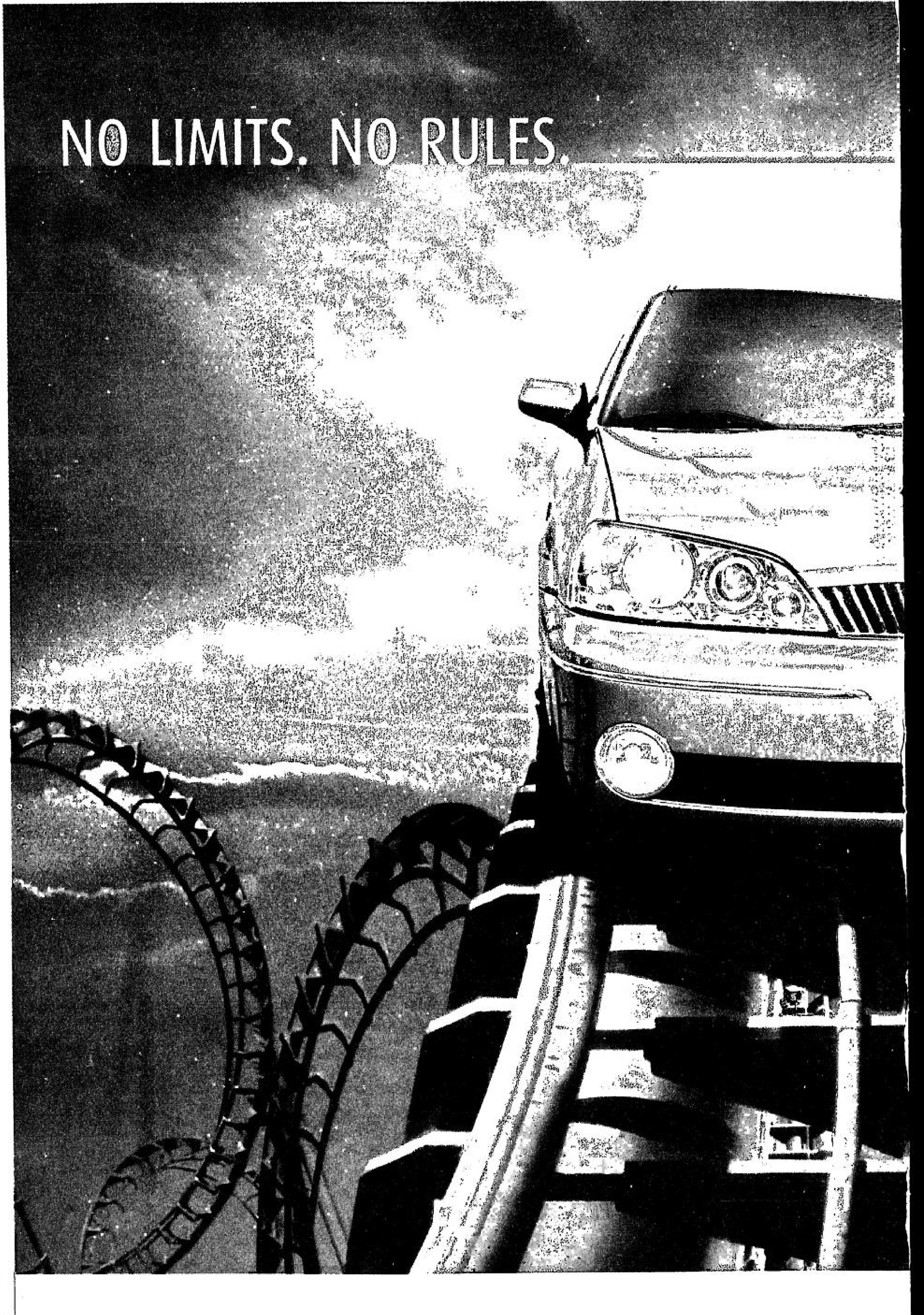
Though he has gone far from his humble beginnings, Dizon says he does not forget his past and, as a matter of fact, is fond of remembering it.

Proud *'probinsiyano'*

Before his uncle and aunt—who played the roles of good guardians to him, and who he says treated him like their own son—died, he used to visit them at the province and bring them small gifts as a sign of appreciation.

He recalls how the two were very proud of

POOR/B5



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Smart gadgets won't banish those shopday blues

DUESSELDORF, Germany—Supermarkets may be using the latest hi-tech wizardry to ease the pain of the weekly grocery round, but even electronic shelf labeling and automatic bag packers won't take the "shop" out of shopping.

EuroShop, the retail equipment manufacturers' three-yearly jamboree, was full of new ideas but most had one thing in common—they were new variations on an old theme.

Take the Automac shopping-bag packer. Sold under the slogan "Shop without stress," the Automac looks like any other supermarket checkout line, except that it has one or two hoppers in which the cashier deposits the scanned items.

The device bags the goods and then deposits the filled carriers via a conveyer belt onto a ledge where they can be retrieved by the shopper.

"This way people won't have the last-minute stress of trying to pack their shopping while they are fumbling with change as their children grab at their trouser leg," Automac marketing manager Claudio Capitani told Reuters.

The device is intended primarily for use in special wide checkouts for elderly or disabled people—with the twin-hopper version costing almost 8,000 euros ($7,050), few supermarkets would want to equip all their checkout lines.

Supermarket margins are sorely pressed in many European countries, meaning any capital expenditure on equipment like the Automac would have to lead to a real increase in customer loyalty.

Electronic prices

So perhaps it's on the cost side that new retail technology will really pay off, and hi-tech solutions such as electronic shelf labeling are already beginning to prove their worth.

Controlled from a central computer via infrared or radio links, electronic shelf price labels can do a lot more than just display prices and bar codes.

For example, a shopkeeper wanting to cut prices on fresh fruit at the end of the day (a practice illegal in much of Europe but not in Britain) would need to just hit a few keys on a PC or hand-held terminal.

Shelf labels can also show how much of a particular product should be displayed on shelves—useful in optimizing display area—and help in stocktaking by indicating how many items should actually be there.

Customers on loyalty schemes could also benefit. Using a special keyring transmitter, customers can call up their own special discounts or loyalty point offers on a shelf label or overhead display.

Jean Paul Boubal, European director of Eldat, an Israeli supplier of electronic shelf label systems, said the company had supplied some 300 installations in Europe—customers include France's Leclerc and Germany's Rewe—and expected sales to leap 50 percent over the coming year.

"This is a step toward a new way of selling. It could be linked up with electronic displays on shopping trolleys to tell consumers about discounts on offer in the next aisle," he said.

Invest and survive

In the context of a global economic slowdown which has dampened consumer confidence and retail margins, fewer people attended the vast Duesseldorf conference than the previous event three years ago.

However, the number of exhibitors at EuroShop earlier this year was up by a hundred on the previous exhibition, a spokesperson said.

Despite the hard times, it makes financial sense for retailers to keep up to date with the latest systems, said Steve Blyth of Pro-Loc, which makes secure packaging and tagging systems to prevent shoplifting.

"By securing high-risk goods like compact discs, retailers can put them back on display in prominent areas which means they sell more. It's in their interest," he said, standing by a display of carefully tagged Pokemon cards, safety razors and inkjet printer cartridges—all favorites among shoplifters.

Among all the hi-tech gizmos on display is a less spectacular-looking tool that could help retailers save hard cash: a felt tip pen.

A line drawn on a forged banknote will appear black, while the same line on an authentic note will come up yellow.

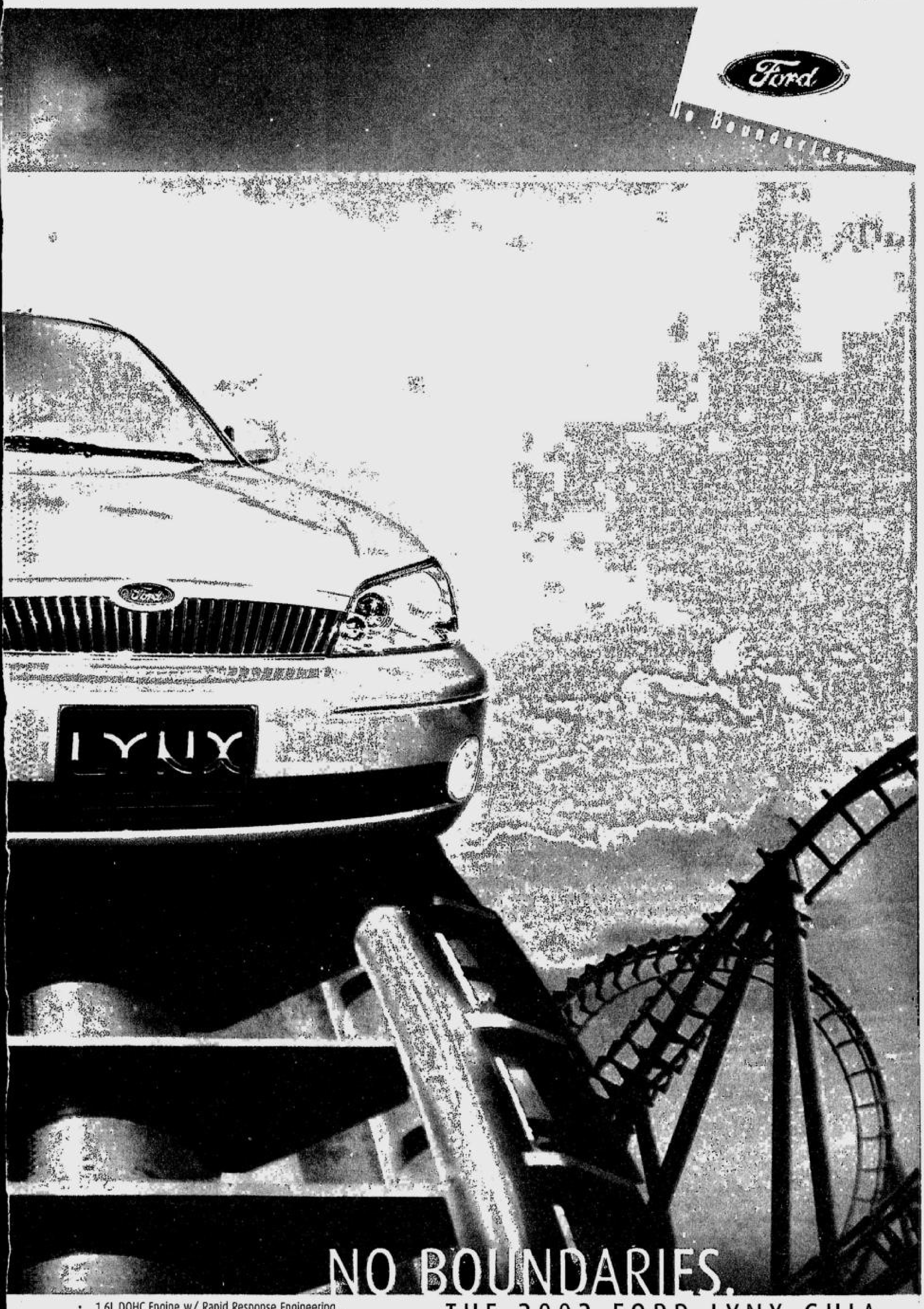
"This is a help for shopkeepers. We've already seen fake 50 and 100 euro notes, and good forgeries aren't always detected by traditional ultra-violet tests," Computip manager Axel Friedrich said.

But the overwhelming majority of the fair was devoted to new spins on old fixtures like tailor's dummies (now available in realistic tubby body shapes and pregnant varieties), lighting and coat hangers.

And out in the real world, cashiers and shoppers alike remained skeptical that technology would bring a smile to the supermarket run.

"Not having to pack their own bags may help, but shopping will always be a pain," said a cashier at a Frankfurt supermarket, while a mother of two in the same store was also downbeat.

"Shopping is fine but let's face it, until they invent a robot which will do it for me I don't think it will be exactly fun," she said. *Reuters*



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Passion . . .

From page B4

Harley Davidson owners feel comfortable leaving their bikes in their hands because they are bikers themselves.

"I have always liked vehicles with two wheels. When I was in Ormoc I used to ride a bicycle and try to go as fast as I can, then I went to big bicycles and now I own a Harley Davidson," Poliquit says.

Rivera, on the other hand, has spent more than half of his 38 years riding bicycles, buying and selling parts and simply enjoying the freedom of riding a big machine with his group, the Mad Dog Motorcycle Club.

"I talk the same language with the owners of the motorcycles who bring their Harleys to our shop. We emphasize on quality and we follow the Harley Davidson repair book to the letter. If the book says that we must finish a certain job in two hours then we should finish it in two hours," he adds.

Boom Bikes charges P1,500 an hour for repair but it also offers customization services such as paint jobs and enhancement jobs.

It may seem steep for some but Rivera says that Boom Bikes offer value for money.

"We check on everything to make sure that the motorcycle comes out of our shop running well. We also keep records so that the owners will know when their last repair job was and how much they paid. It is like a medical history on their bikes and it helps us provide optimum service," Rivera explains.

Poliquit also is not one to rest on his laurels, saying that he plans to go to the Harley Davidson University in Frankfurt, Germany, every year to update himself on the latest models of the Harley Davidson bikes.

"Before a new model comes out, Harley Davidson presents it first to the mechanics so that we can answer questions of the customers. Every Harley Davidson bike is unique so you have to continually update your knowledge," Poliquit says.

Rivera says it was an opportune time to put up a specialized Harley Davidson motorcycle shop as more Filipinos are jumping on the motorcycle craze, although Harley Davidsons are limited to those who can afford a motorcycle that is worth at least two Kia Prides.

"What we want is to be the closest thing that Filipinos can get to a real Harley Davidson dealership. We will not only repair, but we will also sell parts, accessories and motor clothes. Since there is no dealership here, we might as well be the closest thing to one," he says.

Poor barrio boy . . .

From page B4

him, telling their family friends how he worked hard for his studies and his career.

Dizon says he willingly tells his story to people, especially of Philam Plans, during awards nights and other company events where he has to deliver inspirational speeches.

Dizon is married to Fe Vera, and the couple has three children: Ma. Christina, Lemuel Anthony and Michael Christian. All his children, says Dizon, are in the United States and are happy with their own careers.

Christy is a graduate of dentistry from the University of the Philippines and is practicing her profession in California. Lemuel, a graduate of De La Salle with a degree in Business Management, took up nursing at the University of Miami and is now in Chicago where he works as a nurse. Michael, also a graduate of De La Salle University, is also in California and works at Nestlé.

Dizon says he is happy to look back and realize how his hard work paid well, especially for his children.

Attitude

He says he never dreamed of becoming company president, but only of giving a comfortable life to his family. And with all he has achieved in life, he says he is very happy to have more than accomplished his goal.

Included in his recipe for success is a positive attitude. For Dizon, attitude spells the difference between success and failure.

According to Dizon: "Life is a matter of attitude. We live in the same world; we deal with the same traffic, pay the same taxes, face the same people—nice, bigoted and nasty ones—and the same problems. The difference is the way we approach things. There are no bad experiences. Every experience is valuable if we turn them into something we can learn from. And maybe that is the secret of happiness—finding a way to turn all experiences into positive ones."

And with this positive attitude toward life, come the success stories of Dizon and Philam Plans.

Debt collectors navigate through hard times

NEW YORK—A surge in bad consumer debt and loans in tough economic times should be a boon for collection agencies. Right?

In reality, however, some companies are having as hard a time collecting on past-due bills as consumers are in paying.

While Wall Street and top Federal Reserve officials are banking on better times around the corner, struggling borrowers, even with access to low interest rates, are increasingly slow to pay overdue bills and loans.

"We've seen delinquencies and write-offs have gone higher. The trend is definitely up," said Al Brothers, executive vice president at Cavalry Investments LLC, a debt collection specialist based in Hawthorne, New York.

As consumer debt reached $1.67 trillion at the end of January, delinquency rates on consumer loans such as credit card bills moved higher, hitting their highest level in four years in some cases, according to industry data.

Analysts predict that more bills and loans will become delinquent or lapse into default this year after a record 1.45 million individuals filed for bankruptcy last year, up 19 percent from 2000.

"The downturn has been a lot longer than in the past. It's been very frustrating for us. It's been much, much tougher to collect," said Brian Callahan, director of financial reporting at NCO Group Inc., one of the world's biggest bill collectors, headquartered in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania.

In fact, NCO Group foresaw an economic downturn in the summer of 2000, a year before business economists pulled the recession alarm, on a decline in bill and loan prepayments.

This in turn has hit the bottom line.

NCO's income from continuing operations fell to $74.9 million in 2001 from $100.3 million in 2000, although revenue rose to $701.5 million from 2000's $605.9 million.

Bills mounting

Even in a recession, Americans have not reined in their free spending habits, abetted by low credit card rates and last year's zero-percent financing incentives from carmakers.

American families spent 14.3 percent of their paychecks at the end of last year to service their debt loads, the highest debt-service ratio in 15 years, according to Federal Reserve data. The proportion of household income going to pay revolving loans, mostly credit card bills, hit a record 6.37 percent.

As more cardholders fall behind with their payments, credit card issuers have been writing off more bad loans, according to bond rating service Fitch Ratings. Fitch's card charge-off index hit 5.88 percent for March, up from February's 5.83 percent.

Fitch's monthly measure of credit card bills past due 60 days or more rose in March to its highest level in four years, to 3.56 percent from February's 3.41 percent.

Sales of bad loans

In many cases, lenders simply take a loss by writing off bad loans or offer easier terms to hard-pressed borrowers, usually in the form of smaller monthly payments and stretching out the life of the loan.

In contrast, banks, finance companies and even utilities and health-care providers are instead opting at an increasing rate to sell bad loans and delinquent receivables in the open market to collection specialists like Cavalry and NCO.

"We've seen an increase in receivables from all sectors," NCO's Callahan said.

Tom Hicks, senior vice president at National Mortgage Exchange in St. Louis, said his firm brokered $2 billion in bad debt sales during that last four months of 2001, about a 35-percent increase from the same 2000 period.

For many companies, sales of bad loans are a quick way to raise cash. On the downside, they must sell them to collection agencies at severe discounts, anywhere from 3 to 8 cents on the dollar.

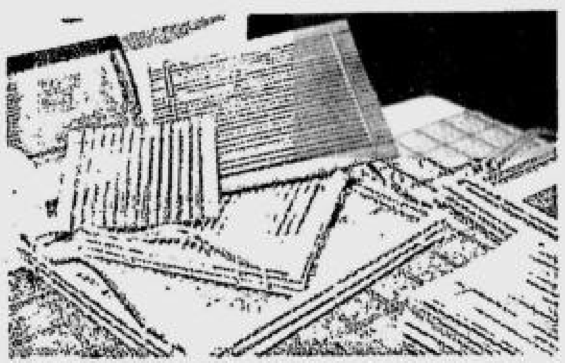
"Many companies are looking at sales as a recovery strategy," said Cavalry's Brothers, whose firm specializes in severely delinquent loans, those loans 180 days past due. Brothers said his company has not struggled with collection.

In 2001, Cavalry bought $984 million in bad consumer loans, pushing its collection portfolio to $3 billion. A third of the loans Cavalry purchased came from credit card issuers, another third from car finance companies and the rest from companies such as utilities and health-care providers.

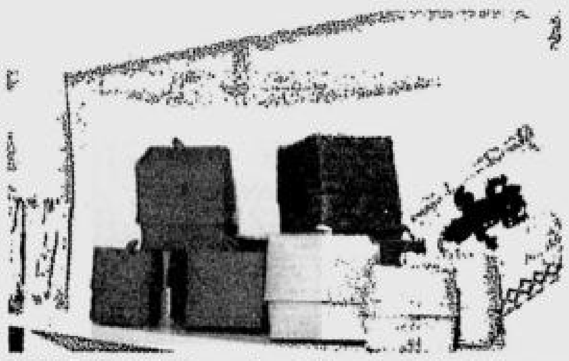
Given its struggle, NCO may be finally looking at brighter days ahead. In early February, NCO shares shot up 12 percent after the company raised its earnings guidance for the first and second quarters of 2002.

NCO's Callahan said there have been signs of improvements in collection.

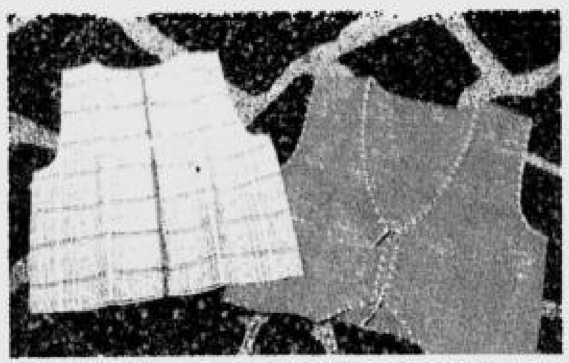
"It's been difficult to predict consumer prepayment patterns, but we have been very cautiously optimistic," he said. *Reuters*



PLACE mats and wooden trays are sturdy and functional.



HANDCRAFTED products like small baskets are popular souvenir items. PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO



ABRA'S textile products are getting noticed by export markets.

NATIVE vinegar from sugar cane is one of the most popular products of Abra.

Making Abra the dye capital

TRADITIONAL weaving expertise is now combined with contemporary designs to appeal to a bigger market.

THE NATIONAL highway going north to Ilocos Norte is considered one of the best in the Philippines, but unfortunately, it bypassed the province of Abra, home to the Tingguian people and the source of fine quality handicrafts and textiles.

Abra is part of the Cordillera Administrative Region covering 3,975 square kilometers. It has 27 municipalities and the capital is Bangued. It is home to 12 religious sects and 11 ethnic groups led by the Tingguians who were the original inhabitants of Abra. Its hardy native horses symbolize the province.

Abra may be isolated in a way but this has not stopped its enterprising people from penetrating the export markets due primarily to its artisans who are renowned for producing high quality bamboo products and textiles.

Its products include bags, hats, place mats, attaché cases and hand-woven natural dyed fabrics such as clothes, table covers and place mats which are exported to countries such as the United States, Canada and Japan.

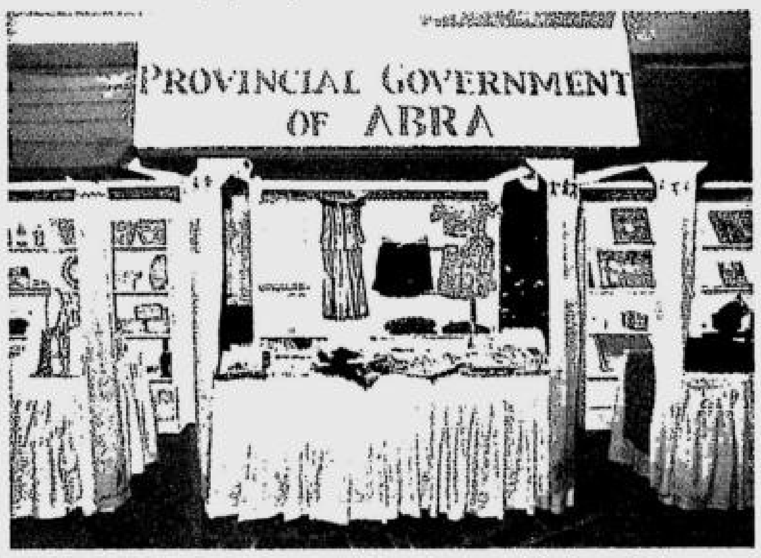
These products, like its food, are inspired by the twin cultures of the Tingguians and the Ilocanos, as well as some influence from the Spanish colonizers.

The different products and native cuisine were showcased during the recently concluded Arya Abra festival held at the Century Park Hotel last month, to coincide with the chief festival in Bangued to commemorate the founding of the province.

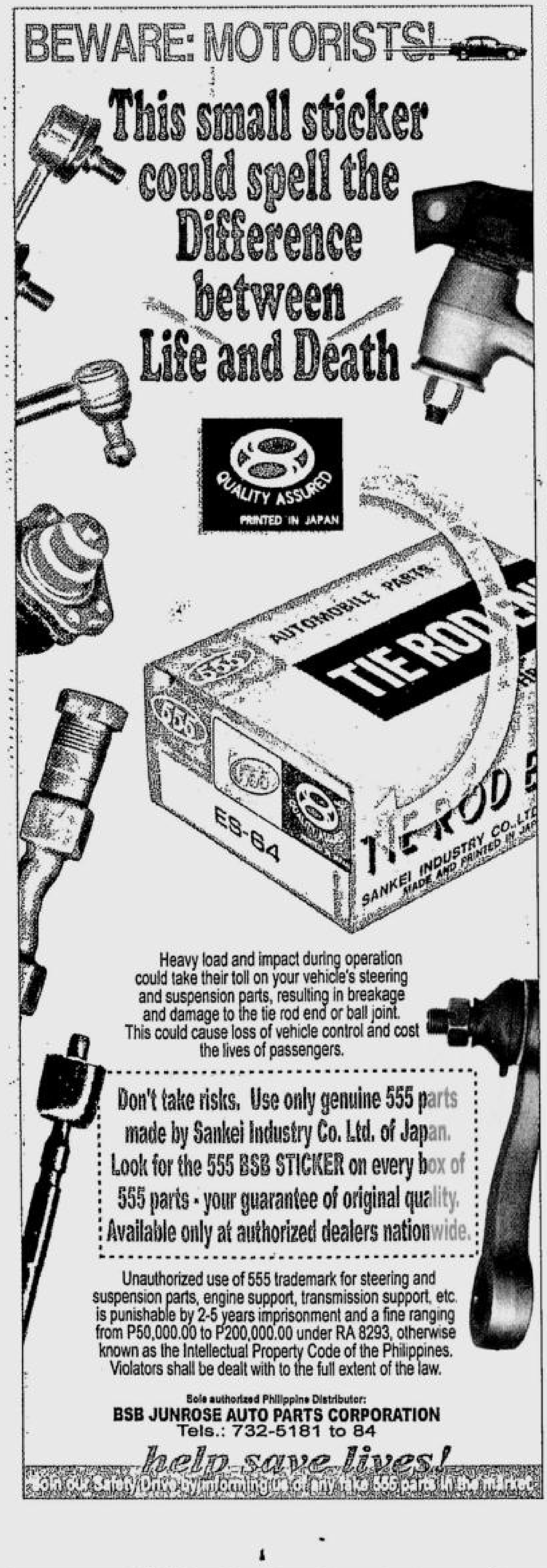
The flagship products were the naturally dyed textiles which were fashioned into bags, clothes and shirts. The natural dye industry was revived as it was envisioned to be a major source of livelihood for farmers and additional source of income for women.

The ultimate goal is to make Abra the natural dye capital of the Philippines. *Tina Arceo-Dumlao*

THE TINGGUIAN people of Abra are noted for their art of weaving and natural dyeing as seen in traditional wear.



THE PROVINCIAL government of Abra showcased the best of Abra products and cuisine at the Century Park Hotel.



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HER EXCELLENCY President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with (from left) SGV founder Washington SyCip., AIG group president and CEO Jose L. Cuisia Jr., president and CEO of CCA Philippines Arthur M. Lopez and Tower Club general manager Rupert Haarhoff.

(FROM left) Metro Pacific Corp. group vice president Mike Goco, his wife Linda, Gloria Tan and husband Peter Tan, H & Q Asia-Pacific Inc. senior vice president.

President Macapagal-Arroyo marks grand opening of exclusive Tower Club

THE GRAND opening of the Tower Club was another occasion where top executives of the country's leading corporations talked shop but in more relaxed and elegant surroundings.

The Tower Club is the brainchild of AIG group head Jose L. Cuisia Jr. who wanted an exclusive club where executives and influential people from business and society can leave their worries out the door and enjoy good food, fine wine and most importantly, good company.

No less than President Macapagal-Arroyo graced the affair, which was attended by members of the Tower Club led by Cuisia and SGV and Co. founder Washington SyCip, who sits as chair of the Tower Club board of governors.

TONY Pena, president of Pro Consult Corp. with wife Roseanne

CCA Philippines president Arthur Lopez and CCA International's managing director Helmut Knipp

BUSINESSMAN Alfredo Henares with Vicki Belo and Fairways and Bluewater's Noel "Toti" Cariño

(FROM left) Robinsons' Land's Danilo Ignacio, managing director Ramon F. Garcia and Co., Nestor Roraldo, managing partner of Roraldo, Gatdula, Rosales and Co., and PricewaterhouseCoopers head Jerry Isla

(FROM left) Endika Aboitiz of the Aboitiz group with couple Fernando and Julie Peña. Fernando is president of MOF Co. Subic Inc

TRAVEL in Comfort. (wardrobe A) Wear your pants for that "just in case, carry all that luggage" situation. Black coat with lining, P1,499

A TRENCH is not necessarily a dress. (wardrobe B) Give it another entirely different look. Camel trench coat with belt, P1,299; Red knit blouse, P599; Black pants, P999

A CRISP polo shirt will be your most wanted piece. (wardrobe C) Go plain and basic but let that eyewear put you in power. Eyewear, P179 (i2i); white belt, P299; black skirt, P799

MAKE UP artist Eric Maningat suggests that the eye shadow be darker than the natural colors you use for the daytime. Put two layers of mascara on the eyelashes. Darken your lips and let it shine more. Put your hair in a soft bun. Try not to use loads of hairspray.

ACCESSORIES: Bigger accessories, satin bags can add character and take the focus out of the outfit you've already used. Fishnet stockings will contour your legs and give it shape. The fishnet stocking is sexy not vulgar when you have a serious get-up.

Travel light, dress smart

SUNDAYBIZ asked former model and fashion consultant Tina Maristela-Ocampo to provide tips for lady execs who travel a lot:

1. Avoid prints in your chosen wardrobe pieces.

2. Choose basic colors such as black, earth and white to serve as canvass to one or two colorful innerwear of your choice. Note: in this pictorial, our chosen colors are maroon and grey.

3. A skirt with a slimmer silhouette is essential. A pair of pants of a modern silhouette is a must.

4. Your chosen black jacket shall be your most flexible garment, which can be worn daytime for a corporate look and nighttime for a dressier look.

5. Choose shoes, bags and other accessories, which have enough character to give to your basic outfit some punch. Note: In this pictorial, our chosen accessories are: strand of pearls, pumps with very pointed shoes, fishnet stockings, flower brooches, red carry-all bag, maroon evening bag, white belt.

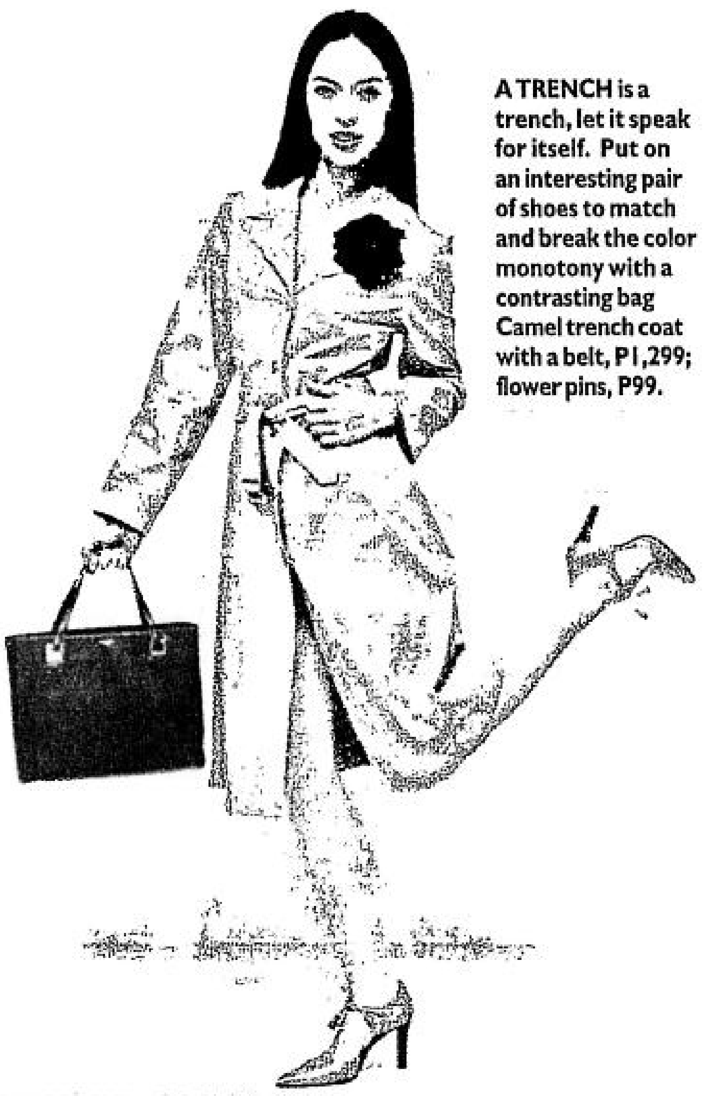
6. Try at home as many easy and simple hairstyles you can do to your hair, play on parts, buns, blow-dried, curled. Bring with you an electric curler, hairspray, clips and pins.

7. Make up should be kept natural looking for the day using more shine on the lips and just earth color shadows for the eyes.

EVENING look 1. Use the black jacket in wardrobe A. Pair it with skirt in wardrobe C. Put on fishnet stockings. Strand of pearl with flower brooch. Use your small evening bag. Black jacket, P1,399; black skirt, P799

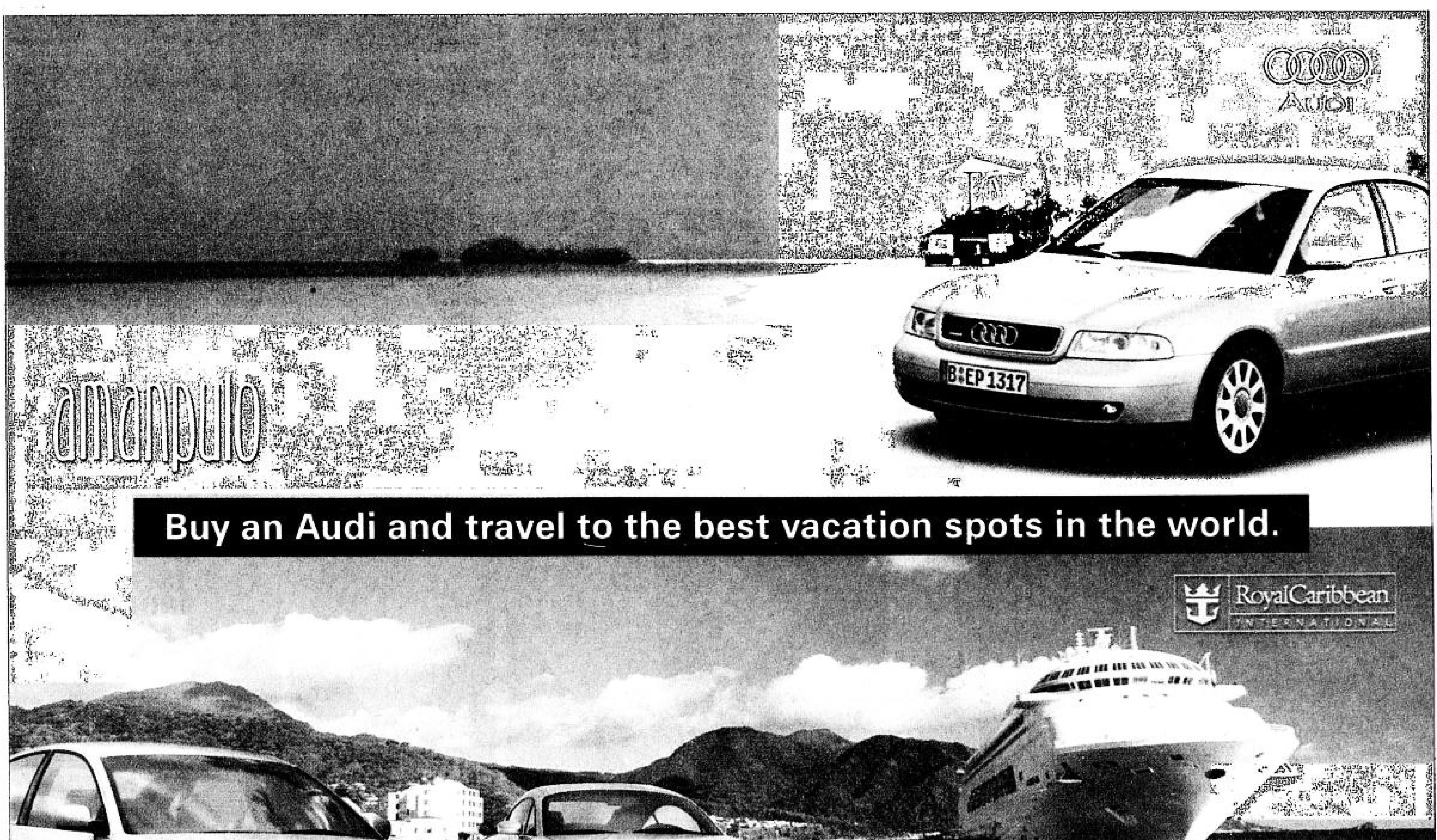
THIS KNITWEAR stretches even in the number of usage. (wardrobe D) Use it morning, noon and night. Grey knits, P699; Black skirt, P859

LUNCHEON meeting. Use white polo shirt in wardrobe C. Put on knitwear one in wardrobe D. Use the basic black pants in wardrobe B. Go simple with everything else. Grey knits, P699; Black pants, P699



A TRENCH is a trench, let it speak for itself. Put on an interesting pair of shoes to match and break the color monotony with a contrasting bag Camel trench coat with a belt, P1,299; flower pins, P99.

CLOTHES FROM THE BLACK SHOP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IPAMS U.S.A. IMMIGRANT VISA

IN COOPERATION WITH *HEALTHSTAR INTERNATIONAL, INC.*

CGFNS AND NON CGFNS NURSES

FOR

DUBUIS Health System

(www.dubuis.org)

Faith-Based Catholic Hospitals

NO PLACEMENT FEES WHATSOEVER IN R.P. AND U.S.A. FREE AIRFARE AND TEMPORARY HOUSING.

DUBUIS HEALTH SYSTEM WILL PAY ALL PROCESSING FEES & VISA COSTS

TO INCLUDE TESTING FEES FOR CGFNS, TOEFL/TWE, TSE, NCLEX, AND GUAM AIRFARE

Come meet with the Hospital's Representatives conducting Final Interviews on the following dates:

MANILA at IPAMS Office: **April 15 TO 20**

Northern & Southen Luzon candidates (e.g. from Baguio, Pangasinan, Bicol region, etc.) who will be selected by Dubuis Health System shall be reimbursed of their actual bus fare.

Mission Statement: Consistent with the heritage of its Sponsors, the Mission of Dubuis Health System is to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to patient's who require an extended hospitalization

A Ministry of Healing: The hospitals within Dubuis Health System offer a full range of services for patients who need acute care for an extended period of time. Among offerings at Dubuis are social services, case management, nutritional counseling, and occupational, physical, speech, and respiratory therapy. By combining intensive care with rehabilitation therapy, we help patients progress to another level of care; or – and this is our ultimate goal – help them return to the community

Nursing Advantages: Dubuis Health System offers a "hospital in a hospital setting." Our long term acute care units of less than 50 beds located within a larger acute care hospital offers RNs many advantages; faith based setting; lower patient-to-staff ratios; single-unit assignment; longer patient stays (25 days or more) with adequate time for patient care.

Locations: Alexandria, LOUISIANA; Texarkana, TEXAS; Houston, TEXAS; Hot Springs, ARKANSAS; Bridgeton, MISSOURI; Oklahoma City, OKLAHOMA

Benefits: Life Insurance and Long Term Disability free coverage on 1st day of month after 60 days of employment. Also at that time, employee may purchase Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, additional Life Insurance and Short Term Disability coverage at favorable group rates. After 90 days of employment, vacation and sick leave becomes available. Benefits available later include free Retirement Plan, Tuition Reimbursement, and optional contributory Matched Savings Plan.

HealthStar International Inc., a major staffing company from ***Houston, Texas*** will be in town on **April 15 to 20, 2002** identifying nurses for its client, ***DUBUIS Health System.*** **Mr. Russel Baird** of ***HealthStar*** together with **Dubuis Health System** representatives - **Mesdames Ellen Smith, Jan Harrison** and **Mr. Cesar Angulo** will conduct selections and execute contracts.

To take advantage of this opportunity, candidates must personally apply asap by submitting comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to:

IPAMS
since 1972
U.S. Immigration Consultancy

INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.
1455 Leon Guinto Sr. St. 1004
Malate, Metro Manila, Philippines
E-Mail: ipams_us@mydestiny.net / Fax: 521-1189
Mobile No.: 0917-8919190 or 0918-9215891

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.IPAMS.COM.PH

IF POSSIBLE, CANDIDATES SHOULD BE **TOEFL/TWE,** AND **TSE** PASSERS OR AWAITING RESULTS. PREFERABLY TWO (2) YEARS EXPERIENCE IS DESIRED.

OVER 175 DEPLOYED RNs ON IMMIGRANT VISAS ARE NOW ENJOYING A NEW LIFE AND REWARDING CAREER IN THE U.S. WITH THEIR DEPENDENTS. ITS NOW YOUR TURN TO JOIN THIS GROUP OF SUCCESSFUL RNs.

- WE ENTERTAIN NURSE APPLICANTS ON SUNDAYS & APRIL 8 (MON) AT IPAMS OFFICE -

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IPAMS U.S.A. IMMIGRANT VISA

IN COOPERATION WITH *HEALTHSTAR INTERNATIONAL, INC.*

CGFNS NURSES FOR

CHRISTUS Spohn Health System

(www.christusspohn.org)

Faith-Based Catholic Hospitals

NO PLACEMENT FEES WHATSOEVER IN R.P. AND U.S.A. FREE AIRFARE AND TEMPORARY HOUSING.

CHRISTUS HEALTH SYSTEM WILL PAY ALL PROCESSING FEES & VISA COSTS

TO INCLUDE TESTING FEES FOR TOEFL/TWE, TSE, NCLEX, AND GUAM AIRFARE

Come meet with the Hospital's Representatives conducting Final Interviews on the following dates:

DUMAGUETE CITY at BETHEL Hotel:	**April 15** (MON)
ILOILO CITY at SARABIA MANOR Hotel:	**April 17 & 18** (WED & THURS)
CEBU CITY at MARRIOTT Hotel:	**April 19** (FRI)
DAVAO CITY at MARCO POLO Hotel:	**April 21** (SUN)
MANILA at IPAMS Office:	**April 22 & 23** (MON &TUES)

Northern & Southern Luzon candidates (e.g. from Baguio, Pangasinan, Bicol region, etc.) who will be selected by Christus Spohn shall be reimbursed of their actual bus fare.

CHRISTUS Spohn Health System (CSHS) has been exploring new directions in health care in **South Texas** since **1905.** Today **CSHS** is the premier provider of family health centers, the CHRISTUS Spohn Cancer Center and Heart Institute, a Hospice program and Home Care Services. CSHS's services cover 12 counties with a total population of more than 850,000 residents.

Being a part of the **CHRISTUS Health System** offers more than just technical excellence. We offer that excellence in a compassionate environment, created to minister not only to the sick in body, but the sick in mind and spirit as well. We seek to restore the whole person back to a place of complete physical, mental, and spiritual wellness.

Benefits: Start on the 1st day of employment for all full-time associates (employees). The CORE benefits include basic health coverage, term life insurance, long-term disability, and vision care. After 90 days, employee has the option of changing coverage to include other benefits: MEDICAL, DENTAL, FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS, LIFE INSURANCE, DISABILITY, ACCIDENTAL DEATH & DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE (AD&D), RETIREMENT PLANS, EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE, CHILD CARE, PAID TIME OFF, EXTENDED ILLNESS BANK, CREDIT UNION, ASSOCIATE PARKING, ASSOCIATE DINING-DISCOUNTED MEALS.

Nursing Opportunities: Nurses have a long, rich tradition of excellence in advancing the health and well-being of people throughout Houston and South Texas. **Christus Spohn is extremely proud of nurses and value their skills, talents and compassion.** We offer a variety of incentives and opportunities for career development and advancement:

* EXTERNSHIP * FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING * TUITION REIMBURSEMENT * CONTINUING NURSING EDUCATION * * CAREER MOBILITY * CLINICAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE * CLINICAL ADVANCEMENT LADDER * * MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE *

In addition, we offer a culturally diverse environment with well-established **Filipino Communities.**

HealthStar International Inc., a major staffing company from ***Houston, Texas*** will be in town on **April 14 to 23, 2002** identifying nurses for its client, ***CHRISTUS Spohn in Corpus Christi.*** **Mr. Craig Gwinner** of ***HealthStar*** together with ***CHRISTUS SPOHN's*** representatives - **Mr. Gary Little, Mesdames Mary Catherine Colley and Esther Joy Palmares** will conduct selections and execute contracts.

To take advantage of this opportunity, candidates must personally apply asap by submitting comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to:

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OVER 175 DEPLOYED RNs ON IMMIGRANT VISAS ARE NOW ENJOYING A NEW LIFE AND REWARDING CAREER IN THE U.S. WITH THEIR DEPENDENTS. ITS NOW YOUR TURN TO JOIN THIS GROUP OF SUCCESSFUL RNs.

IF POSSIBLE, CANDIDATES SHOULD BE **TOEFL/TWE,** AND **TSE** PASSERS OR AWAITING RESULTS. PREFERABLY TWO (2) YEARS EXPERIENCE IS DESIRED.

-WE ENTERTAIN NURSE APPLICANTS ON SUNDAYS & APRIL 8 (MON) AT IPAMS OFFICE-

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ATTENTION: CEBU CITY RESIDENTS
(and nearby areas)

YOU NEED NOT GO TOO FAR TO FIND THAT GOOD-PAYING JOB!
WE ARE A SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF COMPANIES AND WE ARE HIRING:

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- **BS Nursing / BS Physical Therapy graduate**
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- **Female; 20-28 years old**
- **Professonal appearance with pleasing personality**
- **With good communication skills and PR**

AN ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION & BENEFIT PACKAGE AWAITS YOU!

Qualified candidates may COME PERSONALLY for interview with our Makati Head Office representative on:
Thursday, 11 April 2002 from 9am-12nn & 2pm-5pm and on **Friday, 12 April 2002 from 9am-12nn ONLY** at
Unit 1203-B, 12/f Keppel Bldg.,
cor. Cardinal Rosales Ave., Samar Loop, Cebu City

Please bring your Resume, a recent 2x2 photo, Transcript of Records and contact numbers. BE IN PROPER BUSINESS ATTIRE.

THESE OPENINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR METRO MANILA & SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA ASSIGNMENTS.
Other applicants may also MAIL their abovementioned credentials to:
THE HRD MANAGER
7/f Singapore Airlines Bldg., 138 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

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REWARDING & PROMISING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES For EXPERIENCED ENGINEERS

We are a multi-disciplined consulting engineering firm operating throughout the Philippines. We have projects lined up for the next five years, and are looking for qualified and experienced personnel to fill up various KEY and TECHNICAL positions required for each of the projects.

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1. Project Managers
2. Resident Engineers
3. Sr. Structural Engineers
4. Sr. Highway Engineers
5. Geo-technical/Foundations Engineers
6. Hydrologist/Drainage Engineers
7. Cost/Documents Engineers
8. Sr. Survey Engineers
9. Geodetic Engineers

Minimum Requirements:

- Registered Civil Engineer
- At least ten years professional experience in their respective fields of expertise.

Technical Support Positions

1. Junior Structural Engineers/ Inspectors
2. Junior Highway Engineers
3. Junior Geo-Technical Engineers
4. Junior Cost Estimates Engineers
5. Jr. Specifications/ Document Engineers

Minimum Requirements:

- Registered Civil Engineer
- At least five years professional experience in their respective fields of expertise.

If you are interested and feel qualified, kindly mail your Detailed Resumé to the following postal address:

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Code: QC-2002-40
St. Anthony's Building
891 Aurora Boulevard corner Oxford Street
Cubao, Quezon City

Only those who meet our selection criteria shall be called for interview for possible employment.

Our projects have a source of national significance. Our thrust is directed towards the development of various professional disciplines considered essential in nation-building.

G.K. Corporate Fashion (HK) Limited

has an immediate need for the following position:

MARKETING STAFF

(Code: MSZ-02)

To do marketing for the European market
via internet, email, etc.
To be assigned in the Shen Zhen Economic Zone of China

Must possess the following skills:
Computer literate
Excellent correspondence skills
Strong command of spoken and written English
Resourceful, reliable and can work independently

Female, 24 to 27 years of age
Single with at least 3 years work experience
Graduate of top Universities preferred
Possessing travel documents will be an advantage

Please send applications indicating the position applying for and the position code to
recruit@ph.gkfashion.com

Deadline for submission of resumés will be on April 15, 2002

A fast growing HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORG. is looking for high caliber men and women to join the Marketing Team.

CORPORATE SALES ASSOCIATES (CSA)

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Preferably Single for Female
- With pleasing personality
- Graduate of Marketing/Masscom or other related course
- Preferably must know how to drive
- Must be results-oriented

Attractive Salary, Commissions and Incentives await successful applicants.

Apply Personally at:

G/F Raha Sulayman Building, 108 Benavidez Street
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MARKETING EXECUTIVES

Full training given.
Flexible hours.
Candidates must be fluent in English.
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Please fax resumé to 636-8397 or e-mail at:
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VICE PRESIDENTS

- Business Development
- Treasury
- Environmental Programs
- E-Store (Electronic Store) Operations

•With 7 years relevant work experience, 5 years of which in a managerial level. Excellent communication skills.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

•Industrial Engineering graduate . MBA holder with 8 years relevant work experience, 3 years of which in a managerial level. Familiarity with ISO 9000 2000 operation an advantage.

SALES DIRECTOR

• 5 years work experience in advertising and sales

RESEARCH MANAGER

• With MA units, 3 years relevant work experience, 1 year of which in a supervisory level

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS / DIRECTORS

(For NCR, Batangas, Dagupan, Tuguegarao, La Union, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Davao, Zamboanga).

• Must have 3-5 years marketing / sales experience in a managerial capacity preferably MA / MBA graduates from reputable schools here and abroad.

DEANS / FACULTY MEMBERS

(For Antipolo, Makati and Cavite)

- For Nursing School
  - Masters Degree an advantage; at least 3 years academic teaching experience or 3 years experience as Clinical Instructor.
- For Medical School
  - Doctor of Medicine with 3 years teaching experience.
  - A Fellow or Diplomate
- For Deans, experience as academic head necessary

COLLEGE INSTRUCTORS / PROFESSORS

(For NCR, Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao branches of AMACC, ACLC and ABE)

• Masteral degree/ units an advantage, at least 3 years teaching experience

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS (High School & Grade School)

(For Cebu, Davao and other branches in NCR/Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao)

• MA holder with 5 years teaching experience and with exposure in school management.

For *MARITIME* ACADEMY

(Pangasinan, Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu, Davao)

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

- Must have at least 3-4 years marketing /sales experience at a managerial level. Pref. MA/MBA graduate of reputable school here & abroad
- Knowledgeable in maritime industry with excellent communication skills
- Willing to be assigned in branches mentioned above/ Local residents preferred

DEANS

(Recto, Batangas, Pangasinan, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cebu, Davao)

- BS Marine Trans./ Marine Engr Grad w/ masteral units in any field
- At least two years shipboard exp. as Chief Mate or Second Engr Officer;
- Teaching experience prefered . Willing to be assigned in any branch..

FACULTY

(Recto, Marikina, Batangas, Pangasinan, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cebu & Davao)

- At least Holder of Operational Level Certificate (3rd or 4th Engineer License)
- A year of relevant shipboard experience Willing to be assigned in branches mentioned-above.

NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

SALES ENGINEERS

• BS EE / ECE graduate; 1-2 years sales experience; Hardworking and resourceful; excellent written and communications skills;

HRD SUPERVISORS / ASSISTANTS

(Quezon City, NCR, Batangas, Lucena, La Union, Tuguegarao, Iloilo, Cebu, Davao)

- Psychology / Behavioral Science graduate ; with 2-3 years relevant experience.
- For Assistants, working knowledge in HRD is a must.

•PURCHASING SUPERVISORS/ ASSISTANTS

- Business Administration graduate or any four year related course. At least 2 years work experience in a supervisory capacity.
- For Assistants, working knowledge in purchasing is a must.

NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

• Fresh graduate with one year work experience in Advertising

INTERNAL AUDITORS / ACCOUNTING SUPERVISORS, ACCOUNTANTS and ASSISTANTS

(Quezon City, NCR, Cabatuan, Tarlac and other provincial branches)

• Accounting graduate, CPA, with 2-3 years relevant experience

SYSTEM AUDITORS / ANALYSTS

BS ComSci / BS Accounting, CPA With 1-2 years exp. In programming, coding, testing, debugging, hardware, networking knowledge, computer auditing Good in oral and written communication

MARKETING / ADMISSION OFFICERS

(Quezon City, Fairview, NCR, Dagupan, Lucena, Tuguegarao, La Union, Cebu, Davao, Zamboanga)

• Graduate of Management, Marketing, or any related course; with 2 years marketing/sales or relevant experience

LIBRARIANS / LIBRARY CLERKS

- Licensed BS Library Science graduate with MA units
- 3 years work experience in library works

HARDWARE DESIGN ENGINEERS / TECHNICIANS

• BS COE / ECE graduate Preferably Licensed 2-3 years experience in PCB making such as: PROTEL, SMART ART WORK OR CAD PCB& AUTOCAD Knowledgeable in Silk Screening

CASHIERS / STOCKMEN

(For Quezon City)

• College level with relevant work experience gained from retail - store operations of not less than one year.

FOR MARITIME ACADEMY

LIBRARIANS, NURSES, PHYSICIANS, & DENTISTS

(Recto, Marikina, Batangas, Cebu, Pangasinan, Iloilo, Bacolod, Davao)

- Above - mentioned positions are for manpower pooling
- Willing to be assigned in any branches as mentioned above

Only qualified applicants shall be accommodated. Applicants must indicate their preferred area of assignment. For proper mail handling, please indicate position applied for on the envelope. Interested applicants may send an application letter, comprehensive resume with recent 2X2 picture and a copy of transcript of record and other related credentials to :

FOR VISAYAS APPLICANTS

HRD - AMACC CEBU
2/F Angelica Building, Osmena
Boulevard, Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 2530467 / (032) 2557721

FOR NCR / LUZON APPLICANTS

RECRUITMENT SECTION
CORPORATE HUMAN RESOURCES
AMA GROUP OF COMPANIES
AMA Building II, Panay Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 3733901-08 loc. 262/Telefax 3711661
Email address : HR-Recruitment@amaes.edu.ph

FOR MINDANAO APPLICANTS

HRD - AMACC DAVAO
Ruby Street, Marfori Heights
Subdivision Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 2218192 to 94

For more details visit: http://hrd.amaes.edu.ph/HROnline

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cinderella

SECURITY & ADMIN MANAGER

- Male, at least 35 to 40 years old
- At least 5'8" and above height requirement
- Well built, proportionate physique
- Must be of good moral character and integrity
- College graduate, major in Business Administration or B.S. Criminology
- Actual job experience in retail industry/hotel industry for the past 5 years or more

STORE MANAGERS

- Male or female, between the ages of 24 to 30
- Graduate of any business related course; computer literate
- Related experience in selling environment
- Excellent organizational and people-handling skills
- Computer literate and highly results-oriented
- At least 2 to 3 years experience in fashion retailing

MERCHANDISE MANAGERS

- Female, between the ages 24 to 30
- Graduate of any business related course preferably a degree in Fashion Merchandising
- Experience in preparing sales analysis, merchandise distribution and Stock allocation is an advantage
- Must be computer literate and has strong numerical sense
- Willing to travel

AD & PROMO MANAGER

- Female, 26 to 35 years old
- Masscom or Advertising graduate from reputable school
- Knowledgeable of advertising requirements, observations and conceptualizing/implementing market planning, promotion and launching campaigns
- Can develop creative and effective advertising concepts
- Excellent in oral and written communication
- At least 3 years experience in advertising agency
- Results-oriented, aggressive, creative and can work independently

Interested applicants may send or submit their resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at:

THE HRMD
Cinderella Marketing Corporation
#825 EDSA, South Triangle, Quezon City
or e-mail at
imptd@pacific.net.ph

The **WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT-PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT**,
a project of the Government of the Philippines, executed by the Department of Health
with funding support from the European Union (EU)

Is currently in need of
A Highly Skilled and Flexible

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES COORDINATION CONSULTANT

The Consultant is required for 4 (four) months and will be based in the Project's Baguio Regional Project Management Office (RPMU CAR)

She/He, in Consultation with the Project's RPMU CAR Co-Managers and working closely with the Technical Team and the Project's Partners, will be required to co-ordinate and, if necessary support, the implementation of a range of Community Development for Health activities, across a number of Project sites, to ensure their continued progress and timely completion.

Qualifications:

- ☐ Substantial and demonstrated experience in organizing. Implementing and co-ordinating health focused community development activities and in particular, those relating to womens health.
- ☐ Familiarity with process-driven projects with specific timeframes and targets.
- ☐ Demonstrated ability to co-ordinate a wide range of CD activities and processes across a number of geographical diverse locations.
- ☐ Exceptional communication skills and highly developed interpersonal skills.
- ☐ Ability to work in a team environment
- ☐ Knowledge of the CAR Region and its inhabitants, as well as its key government and non-government agencies and organizations. Ability to speak a local dialect would be an advantage.

DETAILED TORs ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST -- ONLY CONSULTANTS WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.

Interested Consultants should submit their letter of response and comprehensive resumé on or before **16 April 2002** to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
Women's Health Project-Partnerships Component
5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406 **E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph**

WHSMP - PC

AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST

A foreign diplomatic office is in need of an **Agricultural Specialist** who will serve as an advisor on agricultural, food, forestry and seafood products in the Philippine market as well as agricultural production, supply and demand. Duties also include monitoring agricultural production policy and programs; preparing annual commodity reports and assisting foreign exporters and importers in seeking market opportunities. Provides accurate trade advice and market information.

Applicants must have a comprehensive understanding of Philippine agricultural production and trade policy and factors that affect production, supply and demand and should possess a wide range of industry contacts and have extensive experience in agricultural research and analysis. Graduate degree in Agriculture, Business Administration or related field with at least five years of relevant experience in market and policy analysis and reporting, trade promotion or in work requiring application of advance analytical skills is desired. Applicants must have an excellent command of both written and oral English; creative, organized and self-directed. He or she must possess good interpersonal communication skills and must be computer literate.

Applicants may send their comprehensive resume received no later than April 22, 2002 to:

Ms. Grace Toralba
Human Resources Office
P.O. Box 151 Manila

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT

CBRMP

***CBRMP** is a government project under the Department of Finance with financing assistance from World Bank. It seeks to pump-prime and enhance the capacities of the Local Government Units in Region 5, 7, 8, and CARAGA to manage their natural resources and rural development concerns. The Project invites qualified applicants to implement an Integrated Project Monitoring and Evaluation System and maintain a Management Information System at the regional level.*

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST - REGION V

Qualifications:

- Must be a graduate of a four-year course in the field of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environmental Science, Rural Development, or related field such as Economics.
- Must have at least five years experience in monitoring and evaluation of rural development projects.
- Must have at least three years experience in working with local government units, government agencies, and local communities/peoples' organizations.
- Must have a working knowledge in the formulation of a project logical framework/project planning matrix and community-level/participatory M&E.
- Must have at least 20 hours of relevant training, particularly on logframe, results monitoring, and community-level M&E.
- Must be computer literate (esp. Word and Excel) and with good communication and writing skills.
- Knowledgeable on local dialects and preferably a resident of Region V.
- Must be physically fit and willing to travel in remote upland and coastal areas.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT FOR M&E - REGIONS V, VII, VIII and XIII

Qualifications:

- Must be a graduate of a four-year course in Computer Science; Computer Management, and other course related to Information Technology.
- Must have at least three years experience in the development, operations, and maintenance of management information systems.
- Must have at least three years experience in data gathering/analysis, and monitoring and evaluation of community-based NRM projects.
- Must have at least two years experience working with local government units, government agencies, and communities/peoples' organizations.
- Must have at least a working knowledge in the application of "4GL", proficient in Windows application, with at least 20 hours of relevant training.
- Knowledgeable on local dialects and preferably resident of Regions V, VII, VIII, and XIII.

Interested applicants may send their letter of application and comprehensive resumé not later than **17 April 2002** to the following:

The Project Director
Podium, Municipal Development Fund Office
Department of Finance Executive Building
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

The Regional Coordinator
CBRMP Region V
4F ANST Building
Washington Drive, Legazpi City

The Regional Coordinator
CBRMP Region VII
5F BF Building
N. Escario Street, Cebu City

The Regional Coordinator
CBRMP Region VIII
Timo Romano Real Street
Sagkahan District, Tacloban City

The Regional Coordinator
CBRMP-CARAGA
3F Aguilar Building, Pili Drive
Butuan City

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
South Luzon Tollway Division
Tel. No. (049) 549-2110

WANTED
(Urgent Requirement)

LEGAL OFFICER

- ***Qualification Requirements:***
  - Male or Female, 30 to 40 years of age.
  - Bachelor of Laws Graduate with license to practice.
  - With three (3) to five (5) years of exposure to actual practice of law on corporate affairs, labor and taxation, etc.
  - Willing to be assigned in Calamba City area.
- ***Interested/Qualified applicant must apply personally together with his/her comprehensive Resumé starting April 01, 2002 at the Personnel & Admin. Office, PNCC-South Luzon Tollway Division, Sitio Latian, Brgy. Mapagong, Calamba City, and look for Mr. Albert S. Dela Cruz, Head-PAD.***

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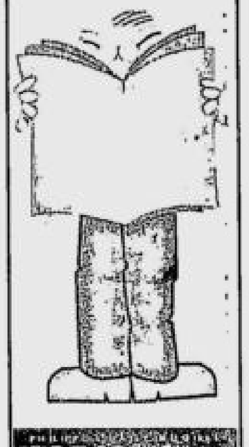

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33 Panalturan St., Banawe Ext., Q.C.
Tel. No. 365-0593 look for Emy

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Preferably with:
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With basic salary,commission
& tansportation allowance

Deadline of application will be April 8-11
Submit all resume', documents & credentials
pertaining to telecom/PABX experience
at 3/F 356 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City
Or call 715-8114 ; 715-7977 / 78

Job Openings

Reservations and Ticketing Officer
- College graduate, 1 year experience in ticketing and reservations from travel agency, CRS literate

Restaurant Supervisor
- 2 years experience, HRM or Dietetics/Nutrition graduate

Cook
- 2 years work experience as Cook in restaurants/café

Accounting Clerk
- Accounting graduate, 1 year general accounting work experience

All applicants must have good communications/human relations skills, willing to be trained, can work with minimum supervision. Interested applicants may apply in person (office hours, 9:00-4:00 p.m., Wed & Fridays) or submit/faxt (817-9804) thieir resumé to: HRD 3F, PDCP Center, Herrera St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

URGENT HIRING

For Sta. Rosa, Laguna Office

- Graduate of B.S. in Accountancy, a CPA licensed is an advantage
- Male or female, 22-28 years old
- With at least 1-2 years experience in Accounting/Bookkeeping job
- Familiar in preparation of government regulatory requirements such as VAT, Non-VAT and ITR
- Proficient in Windows application and familiar in accounting software
- Possess good moral character

Interested applicants may send/fax their latest resumé or may come personally at:

R. Lazaga Street, Balibago Complex, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
or you may call us at (049) 837-1054
Fax (049) 837-1055; (0919) 511-5222

WANTED

A Leading Garments Company is looking for aggressive

COMPUTER GRAPHIC ARTIST

- proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Corel Draw and Color separation
- preferably with work experience in Silkscreen Printing for Garments.

Interested and qualified applicants may apply or send their resume to: HRD 38 Sta Ignaciana St. New Manila, Q. C. Fax No. 721-4875; Tel. 721-1068

A US-based Multi-national company needs a self-motivated individual to perform a demanding role in the company as:

SECURITY MANAGER (1)

Qualifications:

☑ A four-year BS or BA degree, preferably in Criminology, is desired. However, significant experience may be considered as a substitute.
☑ A minimum of 10 years experience in security management and with investigative skills.
☑ Proven ability to act independently under pressure. Able to plan, organize, and direct the activities of subordinate personnel.
☑ Must be able to communicate effectively in English and Tagalog, both written and oral.
☑ Must have good computer skills.
☑ Willing to submit to a detailed background investigation, as well as periodic reviews.
☑ Certified Protection Professional by the Professional Certification Board of the American Society for Industrial Security is a plus.

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 recent photo and contact numbers to:

The Human Resource Department
P.O. Box 206
Quezon Capital Post Office
Lucena City, Quezon

ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, an international non-governmental, non-profit, non-religious organization with Headquarters in Paris, Madrid, London and New York currently developing activities in more than 40 countries around the world, activities implemented by 320 expatriates and 4,500 local employees organization with activities concentrated in relief, rehabilitation and development in the area of Water and Sanitation, Food Security, and Health and Nutrition is seeking for its office in Cotabato City:

1 WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT COORDINATOR
1 WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT COORDINATOR ASSISTANT

Duration of the Contract
- Six (6) months, renewable after that period

Main Tasks
- To ensure appropriate identification and implementation of Water and Sanitation projects in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur provinces

Profile
- Graduate in Civil Engineering
- Fluency in English, knowledge of Maguindanao, Maranao and Iranon are an asset
- Excellent interpersonal and high diplomatic skills
- Team management and leadership skills
- Computer literacy
- Flexibility to adapt to fast changing circumstances
- Motivation, dynamism and diligence
- Autonomous in the work and show initiative when required
- Excellent team player, able to work in difficult situation
- Knowledge of the region preferable

Necessary Experience

For the Water and Sanitation Project Coordinator
- Must have at least 3-5 years of professional experience in water and sanitation project implementation, overseas experience is a plus (experience in construction of gravity flow systems, spring and rain catchments, latrines)

For the Water and Sanitation Project Coordinator Assistant
- Professional experience in water and sanitation project implementation, (experience in construction of gravity flow systems, spring and rain catchments, latrines)

Applicants may send no later than April 15, 2002 their application letters, resumé with photo and references to:

The Project Coordinator, 47 San Gregorio Street, Rosary Heights, Cotabato City, Fax No. (064) 421-6347. Work to start on May 2, 2002. Only short listed applicants will be notified.

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2. Financial documents
3. Distributor experience

Please address all communications to:

Distributor Business Development
Colgate-Palmolive Phils., Inc.
1049 J.P. Rizal St., Makati City

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11th Floor The Peak Tower Bldg.
107 L.P. Leviste St., Brgy. Bel-Air,
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
(from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
from 9th to 12th day of April 2002
Kindly look for Mr. Allan Rapadas or Mr. Marty Reyes

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J & R Agency
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(fronting Victoria Supermart) Baguio City
Tel No. (074)444-6526
Cell No. (0919)632-6223
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Batangas City
Tel Nos. (043)723-4426/564-1033
Mr. Ramon P. Perez c/o Ms. Dodie Simon
Perez Educational & Magazine Store
R&S Perez Building, 46 D. Silang Street
Batangas City
Tel Nos. (043)723-0616, (043)980-6942
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Fausta Village, Tabang, [illegible], Bulacan
Telefax No. (044)[illegible]
EasyCall 141-287294
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
263 Rizal Street, Tarcan, Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel No. (044)766-1280
Office: Care Communications
Baliwag Shopping Center
2nd Floor BMG Building, Barrera Street
Poblacion, Baliwag, Bulacan
Cell No. (0918)407-0044
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Mr. Rizal Capule
#7 Santander Street, Kapt. Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel No. (044)463-0623
Mr. Hayward Pablo
#537 Zuniga Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel No. (044)463-2002

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Mr. John L. Manzano c/o Ms. Jenny Manzano
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Poblacion North, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax Nos. (078)326-7173/326-7779
Cell No. (0917)649-3603
Pampanga
Mr. Noel Cabiero
Lot 4 Block 30 Phase I Corner
St. Peter and St. Jude Streets, St. Jude Village
San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel Nos. (045)963-3718 (0918)505-6249
Copeco Building, Dolores Homesite, McArthur Highway
Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel Nos. (045)961-3787/860-4132
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Mr. Herminio Romero
Romero's Trading
Rizal Street, Poblacion, Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Tel Nos. (075)523-5504/523-5872
Puerto Princesa
Ms. Angelica Leonor c/o Ms. Mabel Mercado
Leonor's Mommart
[illegible] Building, E. Valencia Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel Nos. (048)433-2531/433-2551/433-8002
Mr. Tomas Chey Tan
49 Quezon Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel No. (048)433-2093
Cell No. (0918)275-8118
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Agbanag Newsstand Stall #7 Tuguegarao Central Market
Gomez Street, Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Tel Nos. (078)844-1180/844-0364
E-mail: pobre@cag.pworld.net.ph
Tarlac City
Mr. Ernie I. Duduaco c/o E.D. Ballerles
F. Tañedo Street, Tarlac City
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Cell No. (0917)449-3551
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Mr. Fernando B. Hernadez
Residence: #10 Marathon Street
Marquita Pueblo, Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
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Lita Way Shop
Cathedral Commercial Center
CM Recto Avenue, Lipa City
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E-mail: [illegible]
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RS Newspaper & Magazine Headquarters
Stall Nos. 33, 35 & 37 Ground Floor Supermarket
General Luna Street, Naga City
Tel No. (054)473-8711
Quezon City
Mr. Antonio Feliciano c/o Ms. Jean
Germain Enterprise
397 Tandang Sora Avenue, Culiat, Quezon City
Tel Nos. 931-7468/931-0138
Rizal
Mr. Jesus Dimagiba
191 Col. Guido Street, Angono, Rizal
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In compliance to RA 7041

1 Public Relations Officer IV
1 Public Relations Officer III
1 Executive Assistant III
1 Private Secretary II

Please send application letter and resumé to:

HRD-LIVECOR
7/F One Corporate Plaza,
845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City
on or before April 23, 2002.

JOB OPENING

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BENGUET
La Trinidad
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID

The Province of Benguet, thru its PBAC, shall accept sealed bids not later than 12:00 noon on May 03, 2002 at the Office of the Provincial Governor, Conference Room, from contractors who are prequalified by the Provincial PBAC and classified as "Medium" by the inter-agency Committee and who have "SUBMITTED THEIR RENEWAL OF LICENSE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS DULY VALIDATED BY THE PROVINCIAL PBAC for the prosecution of the following infrastructure projects:

PROJECT TITLE:
1. Rehabilitation of JNR bad-ayan Cayapas Baogan Farm to Market Road at Baculongan Sur, Buguias, Benguet. AAE: P10,252,130.36
2. Rehabilitation of Oriao Daynes Andolor Farm to Market Road at Tabaan Sur, Tuba, Benguet, AAE: P5,176,731.94
3. Rehabilitation of Junction Sagubo Gaswiling Farm to Market Road at Gaswiling, Kapangan, Benguet. AAE: P11,019,198.60

Cost of Bid forms/project: P500.00
Bidder's compliance with the following is enjoined:

1.	Filing of letter of intent with PBAC Secretariat	April 15-16, 2002
2.	Issuance of bid forms, plans and specs	April 16-18, 2002
3.	Pre-bid conference	April 24, 2002
4.	Submission of bids at Provincial Governor's Office	May 03, 2002 (8:00 AM - 12:00 NN)
5.	Opening of bids	May 03, 2002 (2:00 PM)

Only the licenses with approved letter of intent by the PBAC chairman will be issued bid forms and shall personally sign the registry at the time of filing. SPAs will not be honored.

The Provincial Government of Benguet, thru its PBAC, reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects contained therein and to award the contract to the contractor whose bid/s, as evaluated, is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) RAUL M. MOLINTAS
Provincial Governor &
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - March 24, 31 & Apr. 7, 2002)

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VIF

WANTED

- **EXP. STRUCTURAL DESIGN ENGRS** with min. 3 yrs. exp. in structural design. Proficient in computerized analyses and design using STAAD or ETABS. Must also have proficiency in CAD.
- **LICENSED GEODETIC ENGRS** must have background exp. in GPS Surveys.

Interested parties may e-mail their Resume and Experience together with a 2X2" photo to e-mail address:

em2apart@pgatech.com.ph
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*"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."*
Matthew 11:28

SOCORRO MEDINO SIOZON

"Coring"

of Tacloban City

*Peacefully joined our Lord on April 5, 2002
at the age of 81.*

Her loving husband **JESUS**; children **NOEL & Viola, SYLVIA & Ricardo** (†), **RENE & Rowena, ZENAIDA & Virgilio, RUBEN & Carol, BRENDA & Alfredo, JESUS JR. & Teresita, ERIC & Susan, DANILO & Petrona**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Family Residence,
Fatima Village, Tacloban City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 9, 2002 at the
Family Mausoleum, Leyte Memorial Park,
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Sto. Niño Church.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

WILLIAM TANG LEE, SR.

*Beloved husband of the late **Juanita Choy Lee**
Peacefully joined the Lord on April 4, 2002 at the age of 89.*

His loving children **Cecilia & Francis, Frances & Bernard, William, Jr. & Vicky**; grandchildren **Melissa & Manchan Chua, Josephine & George Co** and **Jesse Elden Tan; Johanna & Robert Avila, Bernardine & Alex Luu, Arthur Hsu, Christian & Wennie Hsu; Cherie, William Andrew III**, and **Valerie**; great grandchildren **Maxine & Deirdre Chua, George Gerard II, Georgine, Joshua & Jacob Co, Joshua & Abigail Hsu**; brothers and sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, 48A McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor
has it so much as dawned on man what
God has prepared for those who love Him.

I Corinthians 2:9

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •

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12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031; 715-1027
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Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila • Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
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FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City • Tels. (045) 888-2050; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City • Tels. 646-1725, 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City • Tels. 641-7009; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila • Tels. 642-3010, 633-3602
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Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011 • Tels. (044) 764-0291; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
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LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur • Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5680136, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City • Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila • Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4705
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City • Tels. 749-3808 to 11
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City • Tel. (074) 443-3337
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City • Tels. 885-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3198 to 98, 941-3876; Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal • Tels. 645-1855, 682-0209; 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City • Tels. (075) 515-5060, 515-6529, 522-8763; (0918) 349-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
284 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867; 714-0868
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila • Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City • Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City • Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City • Tels. 826-1376, 826-0652; (0916) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City • Tel. Nos. 843-8836/30, Fax No. 843-0220
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City • Telefax 724-4130, 725-7044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City • Tels. 852-8229, 852-7284
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16-18 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila • Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
288 Quezon Ave., Quezon City • Tels. 372-5084, 410-0286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City • Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila • Tels. 522-8846, 522-0438; 400-5394

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
Philippine Coast Guard - Project Management Office
2nd flr. S&L Bldg., 1500 Blvd. cor. R. Salas St., Ermita, Mla.
Tel. No. 5258843 Fax No. 5258843 loc 122

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION OF FOUNDATIONS; ERECTION OF TOWERS; INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT; INCLUDING LIGHTNING PROTECTION SYSTEMS; AND; COMMISSIONING OF TWENTY FIVE (25) LIGHTHOUSES (THIRD BATCH) IN VARIOUS SITES COVERED BY MARITIME SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASE III (MSIP III)

The Department of Transportation and Communications, Philippine Coast Guard - Project Management Office (DOTC PCG-PMO) through the MSIP III - Bid and Award Committee (MSIP III - BAC) is inviting General Contractors for the aforementioned Project.

APPROVED BUDGET : PHP 20.226 MILLION
SOURCE OF FUNDING : LOCAL COUNTERPART FUNDS (GOP)

The scope of works covers civil, tower erection, electrical installation and other miscellaneous works to complete the Project. Prospective bidders should have valid license and classification issued by the Philippine Contractor Accreditation Board (PCAB), with the following particulars:

Category and Classification	**IAC Registration**
Category "A" **Classification: General Engineering**	**Range: At least Medium "B"** **Kind of Project: Ports, Harbor & Offshore Engineering**

Pre-qualification Documents shall be available for issuance to interested bidders for free from **02-10 April 2002** at address given above.

However, the Bid Documents, Plans and Drawings will only be issued to eligible bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Eight Thousand Pesos (PHP 8,000.00) at the Cashier's Office, PCG-PMO.

The deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statements shall be on **12 April 2002**, 10:00 AM at PCG-PMO.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE : **06 May 2002**
SUBMISSION/OPENING OF BID PROPOSAL : **27 May 2002**

The MSIP-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **WILFREDO M. TRINIDAD**
Undersecretary and
Chairman, MSIP III BAC

(PDI--April 1, 3 & 7, 2002)

Smart's Amazing Summer

IT'S GREAT to be Smart this summer!

As the summer season starts, the country's wireless services leader unfolds a whole set of Amazing Perks and Amazing Services available to subscribers at the Smart Great Destinations. Whether in Boracay, Cebu, Puerto Galera, Baguio, Batangas, Pagudpud, or Davao, Smart adds more to the vacation experience.

In Cebu, the first 200 subscribers to show their Smart cellphones get free entrance to the Cebu Bikini Open. In Boracay, Smart will give away free body therapy on the beachfronts of Coco Mangas, Boracay Plaza, Waling Waling and Pearl of the Pacific. In Baguio, subscribers will enjoy guaranteed seats at Gimbal's and Pilgrims, plus free parking at Camp John Hay. And in Pagudpud, Smart will take subscribers on a free daytime tour of this vacation spot.

Apart from giving Amazing Perks this summer, Smart continues to offer its wide array of Amazing Services to vacation-seekers, with the unmatched wireless coverage nationwide.

On this Amazing Summer, the Smart Amazing crew will be roving around all of the Smart Great Destinations. Those caught with a Smart phone, or using any of the Smart services get a chance to win a Smart Buddy cellphone, plus a host of other fabulous prizes.

It's definitely great to be Smart this summer!

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment
POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue Cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 4061, Manila / Tel. 722-1142 to 59/Fax No. 722-1159
Website address: http://www.sgla.com/poea
E-mail address: poea_adm@compass.com.ph/poea_edp@compass.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO. 001-02
April 04, 2002

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), through its Bids And Awards Committee (BAC), invites duly licensed domestic local employment agency to Apply For Eligibility And To Bid for the personnel needs of the POEA for the priod **May 01, 2002** to **December 31, 2002.**

BUDGET
- Source : Year 2002 MOOE
- Amount : PhP 1,218,000.00

ELIGIBILITY SCREENING
- Eligibility Requirements obtained from : BAC Secretariat (c/o Leonel P. Labrador, telephone no. 7221166, 5/F POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City
- Non-refundable Fee : Two Hundred Pesos (PhP200.00) in Cash
- Period of Availment : April 10-12, 2002
- Submission of Eligibility Requirements : April 15, 2002

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS/BID DOCUMENTS TO ELIGIBLE BIDDERS
- Obtained from : BAC Secretariat
- Period of Availment : April 16, 2002

PRE-BID CONFERENCE
- Date/Time : April 19, 2002, 2:30 PM
- Place : Conference Room of DA Mngt. Services 5/F POEA Building

SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS
- Deadline for submission : April 24, 2002, 2:30 PM
- Submitted to : BAC Secretariat
- Opening of Bids : April 24, 2002, 2:30 PM
- Place : Conference Room of DA for Management Services, 5/F POEA Building, Ortigas Avenue Cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City

APPLICABLE LAW/RULES AND REGULATIONS
- Executive Order No. 262 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

The BAC, POEA reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof without offering any reason, to waive any required formality or defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

The POEA assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss incurred in the preparation and submission of the eligibility statements and bid, and it does not guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **CAROLINA G. DE LEON**
Director II, Administrative Branch &
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - April 7, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Engr. AMILO D. PABON

TO OUR VALUED AFFILIATES and CLIENTS:

Please be informed that effective March 25, 2002 the person whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **ALLSOFT TECHNOLOGIES INC.** Henceforth, any transactions entered into by the above person will not be honored by the company.

Allsoft Technologies, Inc.

ALLSOFT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
1902-C West Tower, Phil Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, 1605 Pasig City
Tel. No. (632) 687-0891 to 93
Fax No. (632) 687-7959

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Bldg. No. 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. Nos. 743-8301 locals 1125, 1132; Fax (632) 743-1829, 743-1786; Direct 711-9502, 711-9503
e-mail address: osec@doh.gov.ph

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

1. The Government of the Philippines has received loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Early Childhood Development Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these loans to payment under the contract for which this Invitation for Bids is issued.
2. The Department of Health now requests price quotations for the supply and delivery of the following:

Item No.	Quantity	Unit
1. Ferrous Sulfate Syrup	219,000	bottles
2. Alberdazole	744,700	tablets
3. Vitamin A 100,000 IU	262,000	capsules
4. Ferrous Sulfate Drops	440,000	bottles
5. Vitamin A 200,000 IU	1,888,200	capsules

3. International Shopping procedures will be conducted in accordance with ADB's procurement guidelines.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P 5,000.00) or ONE HUNDRED FIFTY US DOLLARS (US$ 150.00), including mail fee for foreign suppliers. The method of payment may be cash or bank draft.
5. Quotations must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. on 20 May 2002.

   Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC)
   Department of Health
   Building No. 3 San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
   Phone No : (632) 338-3413 to 14
   Telefax : (632) 743-9582/ (632) 711-6831

6. Quotations must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two (2) percent of the total Bid Price in the currency of the quotation or another freely convertible currency. Late quotations shall be rejected. Quotations will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address, at 2:00 p.m. on 20 May 2002.
7. Prior to opening of quotations, a pre-bid conference will be held at the Department of Health's Multi Media Conference Room, Sta. Cruz, Manila at 2:00 p.m. on 18 April 2002.
8. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by you in connection with the preparation or delivery of your quotations.
9. In the comparison of quotations, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Instruction to Bidders.
10. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, and to annul the bidding process and reject all quotations at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such quotation as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairman
Central Office Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--April 6 & 7, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **WILLIAM NAQUITA Y DUABE**, whose picture appears on the right, of San Andres, Manila and Estina Extension, Surigao City, is the subject of a **WARRANT OF ARREST** issued by the Presiding Judge of Branch No. 17, MTC of Manila, in connection with the case of Falsification of Public Documents docketed as Criminal Case No. 337648-CR. A **REWARD** awaits anyone who can provide information leading to his arrest, which information may be communicated to tel no. (02) 890-3461 local 34. Any information will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

WILLIAM NAQUITA

OBITUARIES

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life and I shall live in
the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

JUANITO K. TAN

Peacefully joined the Lord on April 6, 2002
at the age of 77.

He will be most missed by his beloved wife **Conchita**; children **Juanito Jr. & Ma. Milagros, Catherine Grace, Arthur & Cynthia, Stewart & Agnes**; grandchildren **Rachelle Victoria, Karen Elise Grace, Patrick Joseph & Patricia Margaret, Joseph Stuart & Samantha Isabelle**; brother **Ernesto Sr.**, in-laws, relatives and friends; and by all of us who were given the grace to know and love him.

His body lies in state at Chapel C, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, April 11, 2002 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

PACITA A. PLAMENCO

Died on April 5, 2002
at the age of 88.

Her loving children **GERARDO, REYNALDO, CELIA** and **MYRNA**; children-in-law **VIC, LINDA, MINDA**; grandchildren and other relatives mourn her passing and wish her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at #2 J. Lacson Street, Northbay Boulevard, Navotas, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 13, 2002 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Garden Memorial Park, Navotas.

"And... I will dwell in the
House of the Lord... Forever.
Psalm 23

ROLANDO "Jojo" O. TIRSO

Called to the Lodge on High to join the
Grand Architect of the Universe on April 4, 2002.

He is survived by his bereaved wife **Angge**; children **Sandino Marti & Julia**, father, sisters, brother, nieces, nephews, in-laws, relatives and friends.

He belonged to the Enterprise Lodge #31 F. and A. M. of New Jersey and Kabataang Makabayan and League of Filipino Students - FEU.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 2-C), 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

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OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. 1 De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 722-630
(088) 856-6253
Grandstar News & Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax No. (088) 231-3248
E-mail grandstar@hotmail.com
Cotabato
Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel. Nos. (064) 421-3264/421-8611/
(064) 229-7089 (Lotlot - Secretary)
Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Gov. Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel Nos (082) 226-4408/221-3379/
221-3424/220-2931
Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-8731/301-6244
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. Nos (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Cell No (0919) 660-0001
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marien's Variety Store
86-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-0073
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norie Bautista
Christian Vincent Newsstand
P. Briantes Street corner Campaner Street
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2965/990-4016

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A Programme for Self-Reliance
Bayombong 3700, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax: (078) 3213611 • Tel.: (078) 3214128 or 3212605
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

The Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Programme (CASCADE) is urgently seeking

Management Information System Manager

(Development Management Officer IV, SG 22)

The responsibilities of this post include Network and Database Administrator and Information System Coordinator.

Interested candidates must satisfy the following conditions:

1. Bachelor of Science in Computer Science;
2. Five (5) years professional experience either in software engineering and development, MIS development, or database and network management.
3. Extensive knowledge of MS Windows Operations Systems, Visual Basic, Server common softwares.

The period of assignment is until July 2004, with a minimum commitment of one year from the selected candidate.

Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest, accompanied by most recent Curriculum Vitaé to the address below, not later than 22 April 2002.

Project Co-Directors
CASCADE, Bonfal West, Bayombong
Nueva Vizcaya
And/or : Fax (078) 321-3611
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

Note: Only short-listed candidates will be responded to.

(PDI--April 6 & 7, 2002)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A Programme for Self-Reliance
Bayombong 3700, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax: (078) 3213611 • Tel.: (078) 3214128 or 3212605
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

The Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Programme (CASCADE) is urgently seeking

Information Officer

(Information Officer III, SG 18)

The Information Officer will be expected to take responsibility of all CASCADE Information Communication and Representation, Press Relation activities, while also serving **as back-up officer for the maintenance of the project Management and Information Systems (MIS).**

As such, the interested candidate will have to satisfy the following minimal conditions:

1. Bachelor of Science in Information Communication and/or Information Technology;
2. Post graduate or any alter formal training in Computer Science.
3. A comprehensive knowledge of recent Windows Operating Systems and MS Office softwares will have to be demonstrated.
4. Three (3) years professional experience in Mass or Development Communication (relevant experience from Foreign Assisted Project will be a plus).

Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest, accompanied by most recent Curriculum Vitaé to the address below, not later than 15 April 2002.

Project Co-Directors
CASCADE, Bonfal West, Bayombong
Nueva Vizcaya
And/or : Fax (078) 321-3611
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

Note: This ad supersedes one published on March 2002. As such, previous candidates need not re-apply. Only short-listed candidates will be responded to.

(PDI--April 6 & 7, 2002)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CARABALLO AND SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A Programme for Self-Reliance
Bayombong 3700, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax: (078) 3213611 • Tel.: (078) 3214128 or 3212605
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

The Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Programme (CASCADE) is urgently seeking

Management and Evaluation Officer

(Development Management Officer III, SG 18)

To provide technical support to its Management and Evaluation Unit.

Minimum requirement for this position are:

1. Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics/Economics/Development Management/Rural Development;
2. Two (2) years relevant professional experience (previous experience from Foreign Assisted Project will be a plus);
3. Comprehensive working knowledge of MS Windows 98, MS Office and other common softwares under Windows. Basic knowledge of Visual Basic will be an added advantage.

Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest, accompanied by most recent Curriculum Vitaé to the address below, not later than 22 April 2002.

THE PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS
DA-CASCADE
Bonfal West, 3700 Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
And/or: Fax (078) 321-3611
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

Note:Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to.

(PDI - April 6 & 7, 2002)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CARABALLO AND SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A Programme for Self-Reliance
Bayombong 3700, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax: (078) 3213611 • Tel.: (078) 3214128 or 3212605
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

A Long-Term Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist

Is sought by the Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Project (CASCADE) for its Central Project office located in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

Candidates must possess:

1. Relevant University degree (M, Sc, or higher) in Rural Development with specialization in participatory techniques and/or specialized postgraduate training in Participatory M & E system;
2. At least 5 years relevant professional experience in setting up participatory monitoring and evaluation systems;
3. Comprehensive knowledge of Logical Framework development/Management Information Systems and automation of data.

Experience with Foreign Assisted Projects will be a plus.

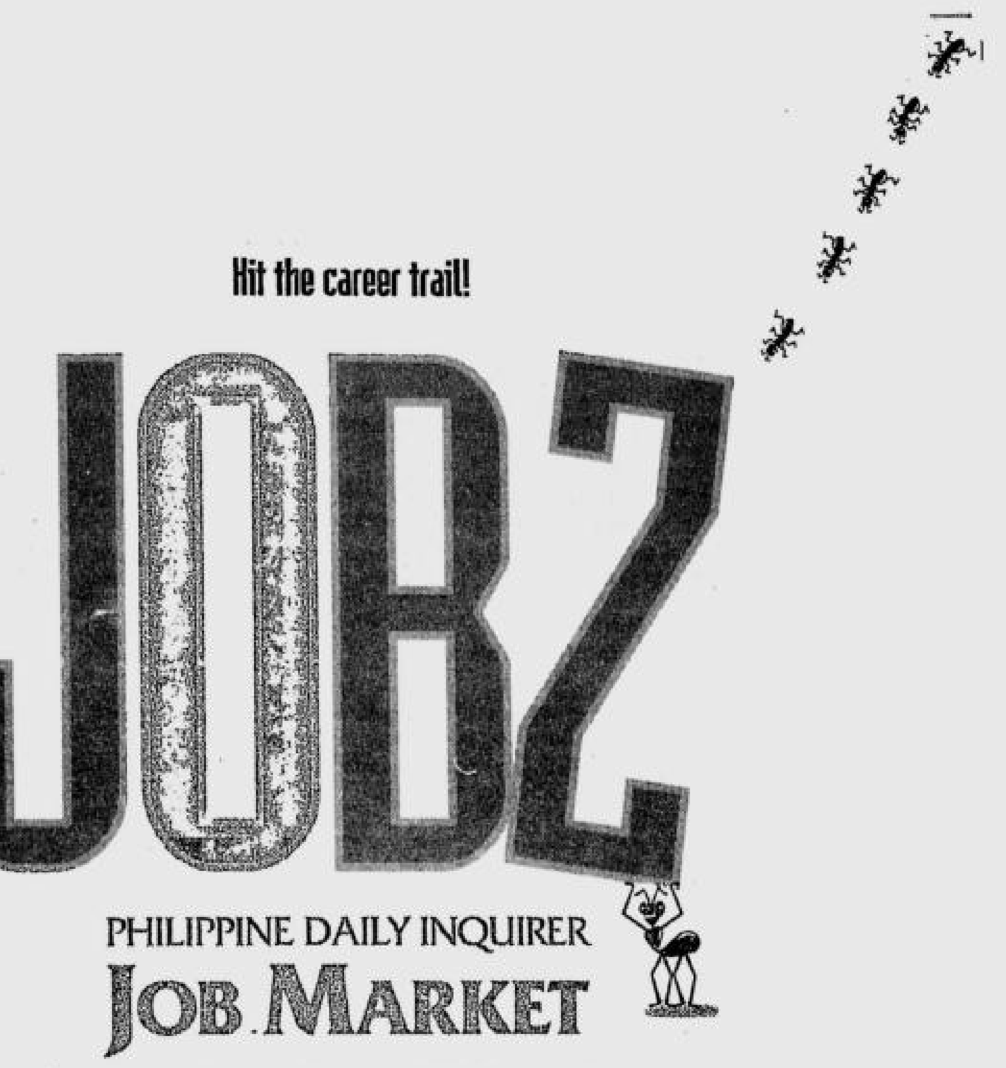
The selected candidate will start his/her assignment by May 2002 for a period not exceeding July 2004. Contract financial conditions will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

CASCADE is an equal opportunity employer. Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest, accompanied by a most recent Curriculum Vitaé to the address below, not later than 15 April 2002.

THE PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS
DA-CASCADE
Bonfal West, 3700 Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
And/or: Fax (078) 321-3611
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

Note:Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to.

(PDI - April 6 & 7, 2002)



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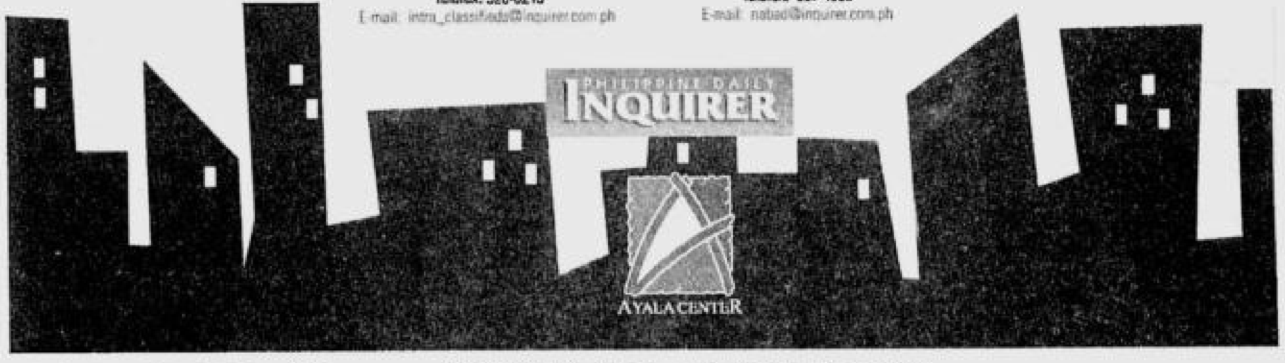

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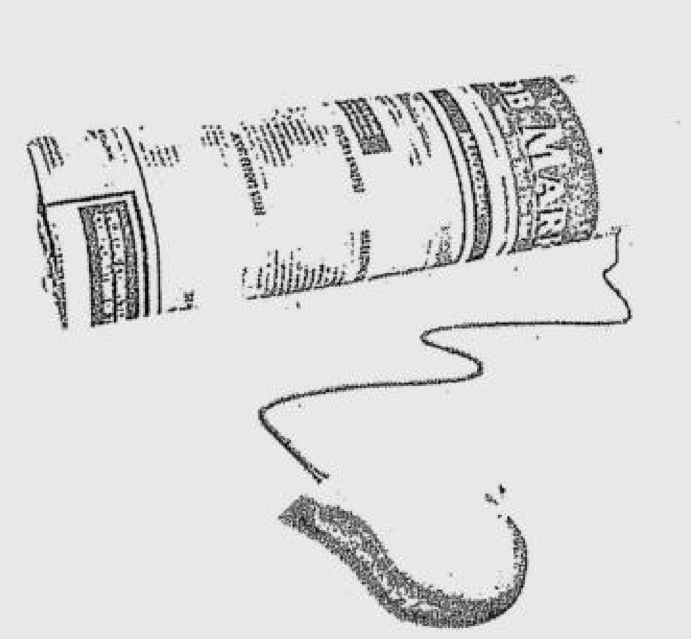

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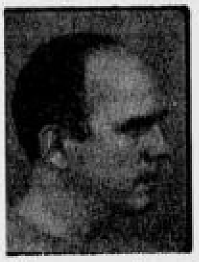

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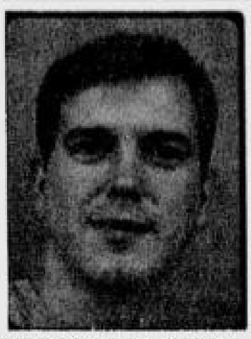

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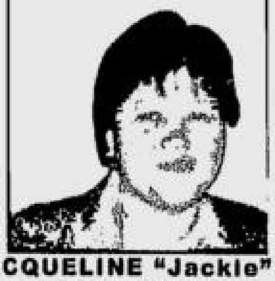

JACQUELINE "Jackie" B. MANIQUIS
whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with the ***Samahang Kakampi Foundation, ABLE Foundation*** and the ***Office of Ms. Jamby Madrigal.***

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(PDI-April 7, 14 & 2 2002)

PERSONAL

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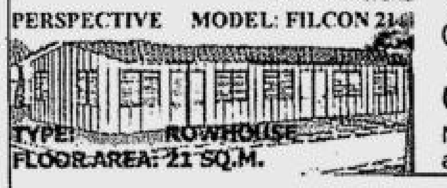

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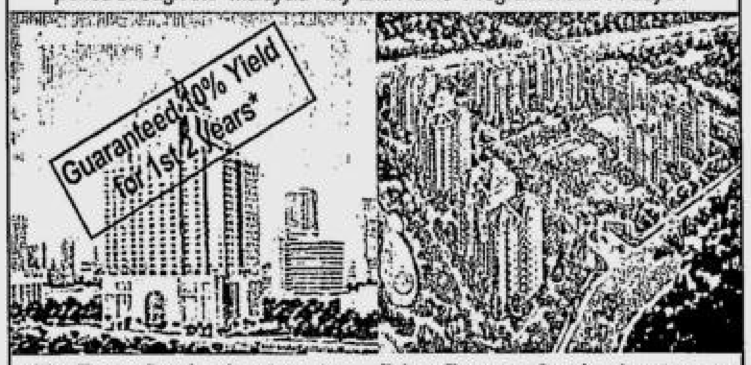

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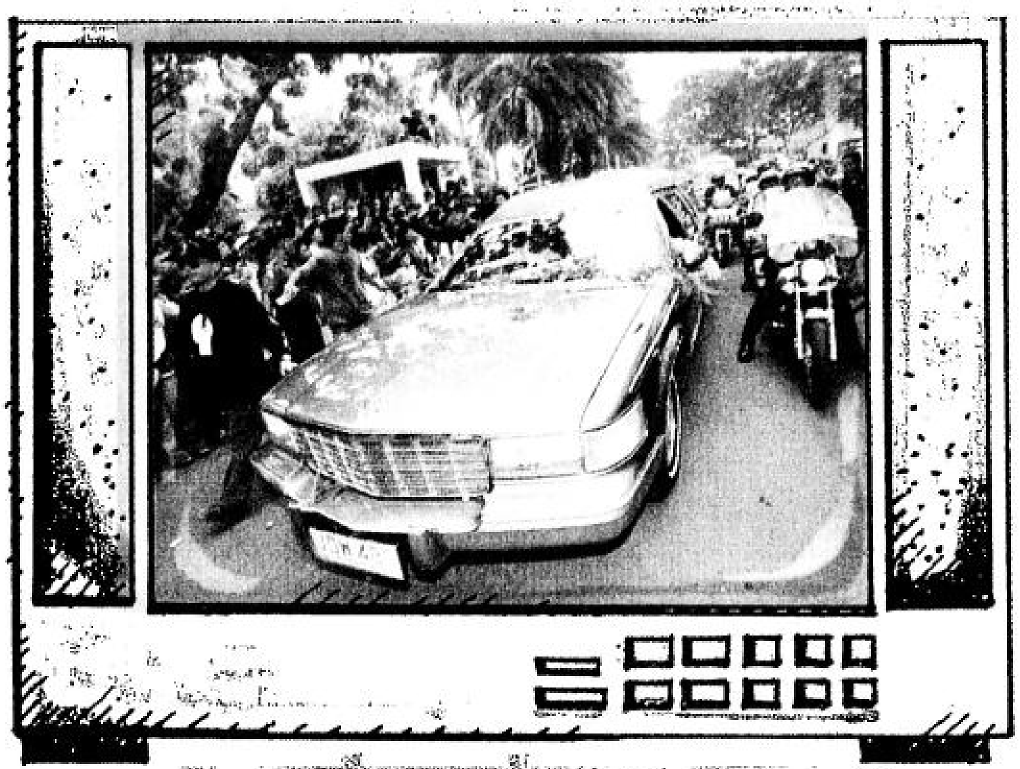

Pornography of grief on television

By Lito B. Zulueta

THERE must be something wrong when television networks violate their traditional self-imposed Good Friday silence to break the news that a young actor had died in his sleep because he had too much to eat and drink. There must be something even more wrong when the networks don't leave it at that and recede into the background, but instead hold the nation—in the throes of the Passion, Crucifixion and Death of Christ—hostage to the zealotry, poor taste and overindulgence of Philippine TV.

PORNOGRAPHY/ p.C6

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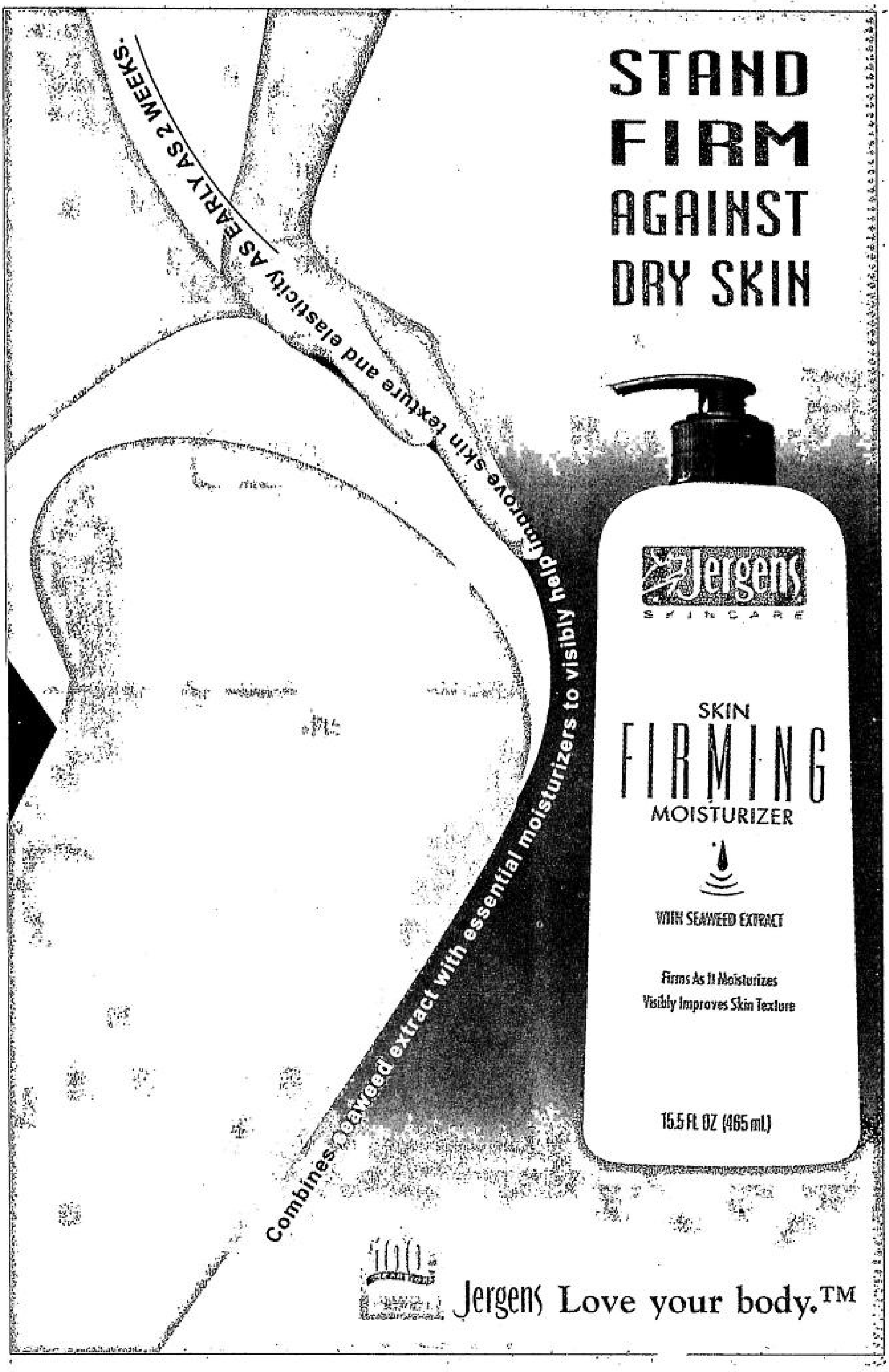
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THE BORACAY sunrise that greeted Slinky partyphiles

WHAT A CROWD! Nonstop dancing and socializing at the Smart-MTV Slinky party in Boracay

Boracay almost rocks 'round the clock

FOR A MOMENT, the beach in front of Hey Jude! bar at Station 2 in Boracay looked like a piece of a tropical Ibiza at sunrise. At 8 a.m., Slinky resident DJ Garry White was still playing, people in sexy beachwear were dancing nonstop on the ledges and on the sand, and the crowd was still clamoring for more.

SMART DUDE AND GAL. Junel Liwanag and Valerie del Rosario recently got smarter.

EPY Quizon with à la Goldilocks curls

This was Boracay Sunday morning, the end of a week-long summer splash for most holiday-makers. This was the week-long Smart summer events kickoff in Boracay. This was the Slinky party, the "last gig standing" for the weekend.

Organized by Smart Communications Inc. with MTV Philippines as part of the MTV World Super Club Series 2002 and in partnership with dance event promoter Big Fish, the Slinky party on March 30 in Boracay was one of the biggest and longest parties ever to be held on the island.

With the beachfront of Hey Jude! looking a tropical jungle, the party crowd was a veritable mix of who's who with show-biz personalities and beautiful people from all over the country.

Louie Ysmael was there with wife Cecil, Maurice Arcache was sipping wine with friends at a table near the open-air bar, Cebu Vice Gov. John John Osmeña was dancing with friends until morning, and Big Fish first ladies Joanne Quintas-Primero and Pixie Cheah were busy supporting their main men.

Fashion director Robbie Carmona was surrounded by beautiful babes and hunks, obviously fashion models. Inside the bar were the MTV people headed by DJ Mumph. Smart marketing events officers Raymund Sanchez and Kristine Bacosta attended to the distribution of free drinks to Smart subscribers.

Also spotted were Troy Montero, Robin Da Roza with girlfriend CJ Jaravata, Epy Quizon, Keempee de Leon, Chunchie Soler, Sunshine Dizon, Giselle Sanchez, MTV VJ Derek Ramsay and girlfriend Mary Jolly.

Newest U fashion model Paolo Cabalfin was also there together with other models like Rich Lozano, Paul Harmond, Valerie del Rosario, Paris, Ava Alejar and Pulp Skin girl Avi Siwa.

Launched in 1997 at Bournemouth, a suburb in England, Slinky has become one of the highest profile nightclubs in the world. DJ White said Slinky was not so much a club night as a way of life. The Boracay Slinky party came in the heels of another Smart-sponsored dance party in Manila (in partnership with Big Fish and MTV)—the "Chicane Live"—hailed as the big prelude summer party kicker this year.

"We never expected people to be up and going until sunrise. Normally, by 4 to 5 a.m., people would start to go home or just lie down in the sand. But at around that time, there was just like this second wind for the whole crowd. It was simply amazing," said Big Fish's TC.

White said, "The people would have probably stayed until noon if we did not stop the whole gig. It never ended. Nobody wanted to go home."

"We want to give people value for their money, and for Smart, it's not just holding excellent dance party events like Slinky but also making the extra step to make them more at ease and relaxed like giving out free drinks and special treats," said Smart marketing events head Miles Inocentes.

"When we throw a party, we want it to be remembered, hence this most awesome spectacle to hit Boracay islands," said Rod Nepomuceno, marketing director for MTV Philippines.

"Big Fish is all about fun. We went to Boracay with a mission to throw the best party there ever. We hope that this event will not only promote Boracay as a tourist destination but also as a world class party place," said Domini Primero, Big Fish head honcho.

CURLY HUNK. Troy Montero with his babe-magnet smile

THE REAL JUDE. Jude Lee of Hey Jude! bar

BIG FISH. Domini Primero enjoying a fulfilling moment after nine months of hard work just to bring Slinky to Boracay.

BIKINI TOP AND SHADES. John John Osmeña with friend Talicia taking a break from all-night Slinky partying.

HERE COMES THE DJS. MTV's DJ Mumph, Big Fish senior partner and resident DJ Tuck Chea and Slinky resident DJ Garry White

BIGFISH
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"DON'T GIVE IT UP." Slinky resident DJ Garry White all smiles and brimming with energy way past sunrise Easter morning

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IAN and Adji Tiongson of Cabalen Restaurant during the gift-giving in Barangay Malabanias, Angeles City

RESIDENTS of Barangay Malabanias

Bagful of treats for indigent children

By Dondi Sison
Contributor

IN TODAY'S business landscape, companies feel the effects of the economic slowdown brought about by events both here and abroad. Most, if not all, companies have resorted to belt-tightening measures, downsizing or, worse, laying off workers by the hundreds. Many sacrifices have to be made in order to survive.

Despite the bleak business horizon, there are still institutions that push forward with projects that have little or no impact at all on bottom lines or profits. Certain sociocivic-oriented projects sponsored by companies aimed at alleviating the plight of certain sectors from poverty spring to mind, such as media programs like the GMA Bisig-Bayan Foundation, ABS-CBN Foundation, etc., the likes of which have created an impact on the Filipino psyche.

One modest program is Cabalen Management Co. Inc.'s Cabalen para sa Kabataan. Founded by Cabalen's president Maritel O. Nievera, the program is now on its fifth year. Cabalen para sa Kabataan is the company's small way of giving back to the community. With its familiar battle cry, Eat and Help, Cabalen sets aside a portion of its December sales every to provide gifts to indigent children in selected depressed areas.

For 2002, Barangay Malabanias, Angeles City, Pampanga, has been selected as the site where 500 Pinoy deli bags consisting of toys, personal hygiene effects such as soap, towels, toothpaste, powder, T-shirts, noodles, candies, among others, were to be given away.

So on Feb. 28, Cabalen's management team and a host of other supporters (together with the author) converged at the original Cabalen on West Avenue, and at 7:30 a.m. went to Angeles City.

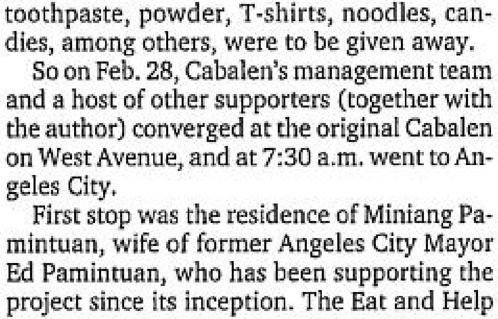
First stop was the residence of Miniang Pamintuan, wife of former Angeles City Mayor Ed Pamintuan, who has been supporting the project since its inception. The Eat and Help brigade was later joined by Angeles City councilor Bong Alvaro, overall event coordinator in Barangay Malabanyas.

At 11 a.m., the convoy motored to Barangay Malabanias, where barangay captain Ramon "Boy" Casupanan, together with councilor Alex Cauguiran, welcomed the group. The gift-giving began at 12 nn, and there were more than 500 people jostling to take their turn. Fortunately, it went very well, and by 1 p.m. all the children had a Cabalen Pinoy deli bag in their hands.

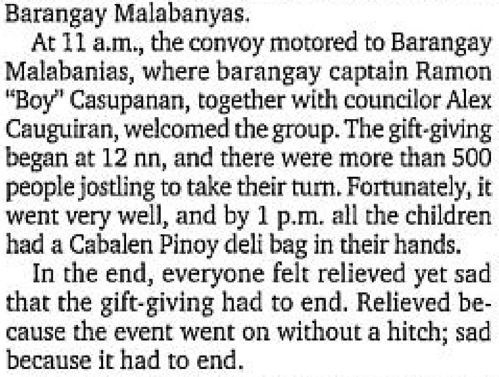
In the end, everyone felt relieved yet sad that the gift-giving had to end. Relieved because the event went on without a hitch; sad because it had to end.

As an employee of Cabalen and supporter of this event for the past three years, it is gratifying to be a part of something that provides help and hope, if only for a day. It is somewhat frustrating that this can't be done every day. But if other people will follow suit, then everyone can make sense and consequently make a difference in this world. After all, the children are our country's future. Although the event was draining and tiring, the smiles on their faces were enough to soothe frayed nerves and aching bodies.

And as the team motored home, everyone was one in saying that the same sacrifice should be made again, all for Cabalen para sa Kabataan.

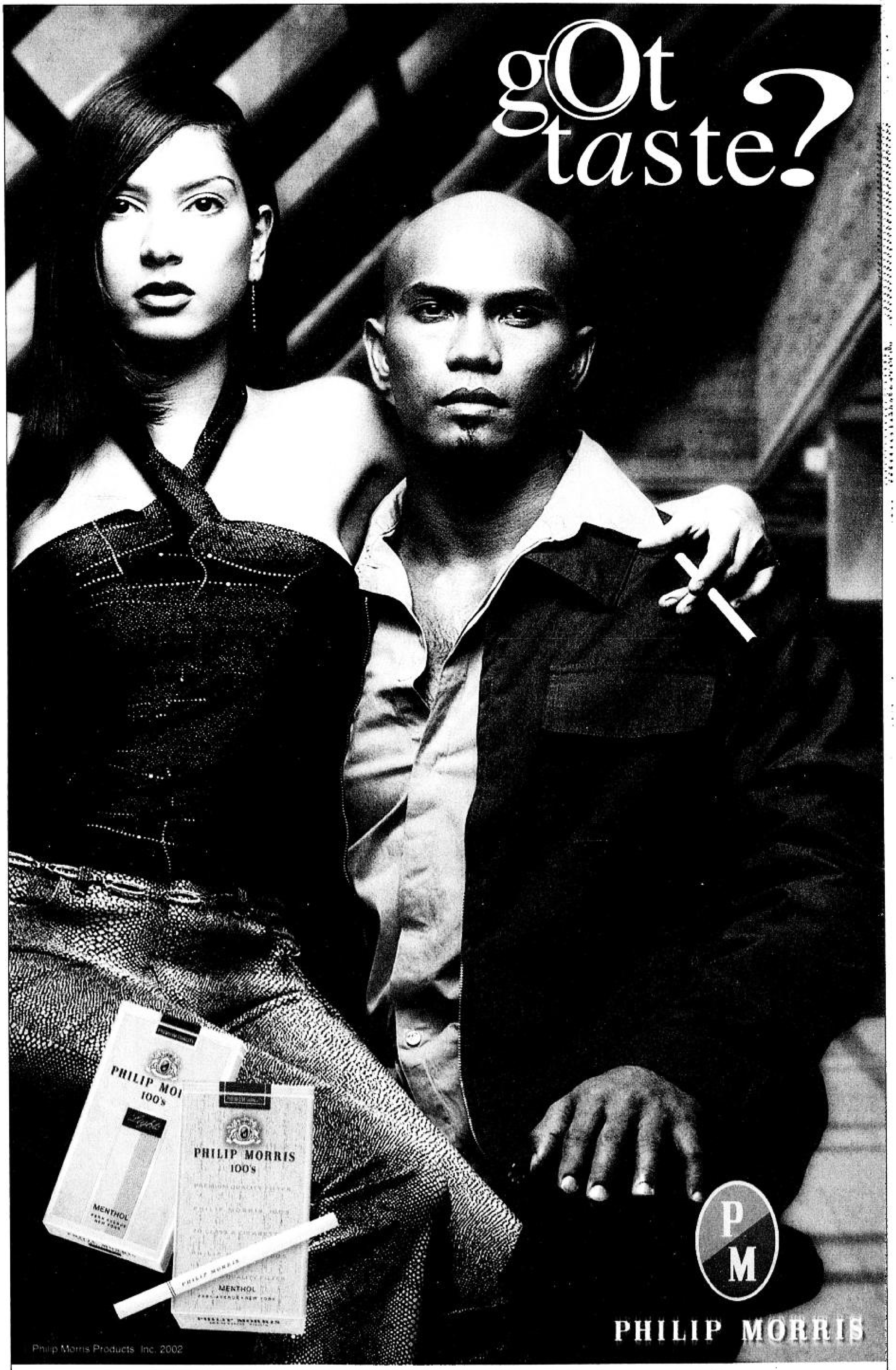


THE CHILDREN of Barangay Malabanias, Cabalen's chosen beneficiaries



CABALEN'S Pinoy deli bags containing toys, T-shirts, noodles, candies, soaps, etc.

ROMBLON Gov. Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona was in Japan to promote Romblon's marble at the Stone Expo Japan 2002. The event was held at the Tokyo Big Sight March 5-8. It was sponsored by director Hideaki Yamazaki of Jetro Manila and arranged by Japan Overseas Development Corp. expert Hisahiro Yoshida.



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- Assured parking at Camp John Hay

On all weekends from April 7 - May 19, 2002.

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SMART
Simply Amazing!

There are lessons even as we mourn

By Cathy Babao-Guballa

TV footage of Rico Yan may help in the healing. Remembering helps ease the pain and fills the void

I HAVE never been a Rico Yan fan, but for the last several days I've been crying my eyes out. I've asked myself why I've been feeling this way. Is it because his loss reminds me of my own son's death four years ago? Or is it because ABS-CBN, Yan's home studio, has bombarded us day and night with scenes from his life and his TV shows and has inundated our psyches with recollections by his colleagues and friends of Rico's short life? Could it also be that I lament his loss because he was so young and full of promise, a young man blessed with a good heart as evidenced by the tales of his countless deeds?

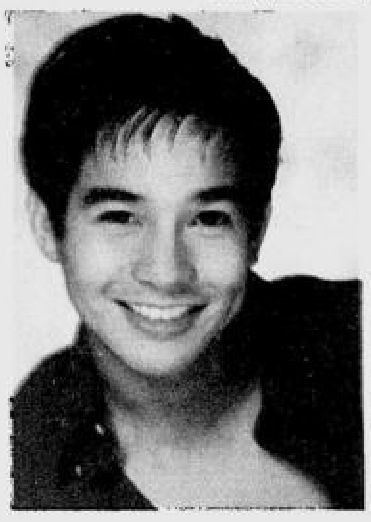
Unlike Nida Blanca's untimely demise in November last year where grief was coupled with outrage over such a violent death, Rico's death brought no feelings of rage—only a deep sadness, as if I had lost a very good friend.

In the days since Good Friday when Rico Yan passed away, I've not been alone in my grief. Naturally, many people found it absurd that so much attention was given someone who was only, in their eyes, an actor or matinee idol and not a dignitary or head of state. Goodness, Rico's death even eclipsed those of two National Artists, the Queen Mother, Dudley Moore and director Billy Wilder!

FANS wait outside La Salle Greenhills to bid Rico a final goodbye.

PHOTOS BY ERIC ARAZAS AND JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

However, a greater majority, I found, was also in some way deeply affected by the young actor's early demise. Like me, these people did not know Rico Yan personally. Many of us had brief encounters, but some had only caught glimpses of him on film or on television, yet, suddenly, like thousands of others, we found ourselves glued to the television this past week, shedding tears, weeping with his family at the seemingly untimely demise of this young prince.



Perhaps in a world fraught with much hatred, intrigue and ugliness, Rico's death had come to represent the loss of dreams, innocence and love. Rico, now larger than life, was everybody's friend, son, brother or grandson. In him, many found a familiar loss and his death once again placed our losses up front. His death also made us realize our own mortality and reminded us of how short and precious life truly is. By his life and the countless stories told of his wonderful and kind deeds we have evaluated ourselves.

Here was a man who would be remembered more for the small acts of love, joy and kindness that he did to others than perhaps any of the films he made or the businesses that he built. And maybe that's the best way to be remembered, even though Rico went about the business of helping others without any fuss or fanfare, doing what he could in his own way with the resources that he had been blessed with.

Toward healing

His family's journey toward healing is long and arduous but they seem to have fully come to terms with losing him, which is the crucial first step toward moving on. The grief process generally follows three stages—recognition, reorganization and reinvestment. Just like his family, those closest to him—his friends and colleagues—will have to rebuild new lives without him. Shows will have to be reformatted, advertising contracts revised, living spaces reorganized.

In the meantime, we continue to watch footage after footage of Rico, courtesy of his home studio and in a way that, too, helps the healing for many. Remembering, to a certain degree, helps ease the pain and fills the empty void.

RICO with cancer patients

The good thing that has come out of his death is the birth of the Rico Yan Youth Foundation. Perhaps this is where the Yan family can find meaning in their loss and where they can re-invest their energies, an outlet where they can channel their grief into something positive. Through the same venue, his colleagues and friends can find their healing by helping keep their memories of Rico alive through their own participation in the foundation. His fans will hopefully be able to heal themselves through this entity as they too try to find the meaning in his early demise.

"It was God's perfect plan to take Rico," his mother said at the funeral Mass. Faith is the other factor that will help the Yan family and those closest to him pull through this deep and great loss. Studies have indicated that families with a deep prayer life and a strong faith in God have been able to move on faster than families who do not bother with prayers. Perhaps faith brings hope that they will all be united one day in that special place where their loved one has gone ahead of them.

YAN siblings accept President Macapagal Arroyo's sympathies.

For the rest of us, Yan's death reminds us of our own dreams and inspires us to pursue them with a renewed passion because life indeed is brief. It also teaches us not to ever take people for granted and to show them our love while we still can. Each day is a gift and Rico apparently lived each one in his 27 years with love, gentleness and kindness. Naturally, there were the attendant struggles that he had to face but he made no qualms about those either.

We mourn his loss, but his life and death only serve to remind us that in a world full of hatred and strife, kindness and gentleness can still prevail and, more importantly, that it only takes one life, one gesture, to make a major difference in the life of another.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Pornography of grief on television

From page C1

An excess of zeal and a poverty of taste (and, perhaps, a little intelligence)—these best describe the networks' coverage of the death of Rico Yan. The zeal has resulted in intrusiveness and impropriety. The poor taste has resulted in a cannibalism of grief.

Nosiness is a journalistic skill that becomes a waterloo in many a coverage of grief. Karen Davila and Mike Owen of ABS-CBN showed this when they needlessly needled the father and brother of Rico Yan for every twitch of reaction while aboard the plane to and from the Palawan resort where the actor had died. Since the network had ostensibly the good grace to lend the plane to ferry the body (the actor was a member of the network's stable of stars), the family had no choice but to play along, at the cost of their private grief. So the public had the horror of Davila and Owen squeezing out every minute response from an obviously distraught father while in the background, the brother could be seen hunched over the body of the actor, packed in body bag that the brother had apparently unzipped, as he was overcome with bereavement.

Obvious

As always, Philippine television doesn't know whereof it speaks. It's a medium that is ignorant of the tired adage that the medium is itself the message. While trying to coax reactions from the family in order to verbalize grief, it became oblivious to the fact that its obtrusive cameras had been showing what had been obvious all along.

Of course, the question is, should the cameras and the interviewers have been there in the first place? Rather than pose this question to itself, television fired away its merciless questions. "*Ano po ang naramdaman ninyo nu'ng matanggap ninyo iyong balita?*" Davila asked the father. Could any question be more dense than that, if not redundant?

But, apparently, it was Philippine television's favorite question. When Davila interviewed by long-distance phone an employee of the resort in order to ferret out information on the failed first-aid efforts to revive the actor, she again asked the question, "*Ano ang naramdaman ninyo habang sini-*CPR *si* Rico?" Earlier, when Davila reported on the field, the anchor on the cable channel ANC asked her, "*Ano ang nararamdaman mo ngayon*, Karen?" Although she had interviewed Yan before, Davila had apparently transformed overnight into a family friend and kin whose reaction to the death was of dire public import.

The blurring of the lines between what is public and what is private is a given in incidents involving entertainers and celebrities who are public figures. But the line should be kept clear by journalists. They should exercise professional deportment and sensitivity. They should stick to facts. They should also be free of emotional baggage. If Davila were indeed a friend, she should have kept out of the coverage because she would not have the detachment and objectivity to effectively report on the event. At the least, the public would have been spared the sight of a supposed journalist perennially glassy-eyed as if to break into tears while asking gratuitous questions. The public needed reporters, not tearjerkers. The public needed facts, not tear ducts.

Confused priorities

Not only the lines between public and private were blurred, but also the division between public affairs and entertainment. ABS-CBN sent top members of its news and public affairs to cover the death of an entertainer. Ditto with GMA 7 that dispatched Jessica Soho.

The competition between the networks has ignited this unseemly battle over mourning. By all accounts, it was Channel 7 that first broke the news that Rico Yan had died of *bangungot* since GMA anchorman Arnold Clavio had been with the actor in the resort. The networks have since tried to outdo one another. As a result, the coverage of the death has been almost round the clock. This partly explains the intrusiveness and the stupid questions. This also explains why suddenly the networks seem to have forgotten editing.

But the apparent confusion of priorities and the fierce competition are a deathblow to news and public affairs television. The networks have simply lost their bearings.

In the important days when Israel slammed into Palestinian territory and put the peace in the Middle East and the world in danger, when an ageing and frail Pope struggled to strengthen a church that remains a beacon of hope and stability although the focus of controversies, when two National Artists have died, the networks chose to train its magnificent resources on covering the death of a 27-year-old actor whose accomplishments as an entertainer are at best undistinguished. And when they paid token coverage to the more important events, they were extremely careless. A Channel 7 reporter digressed from his reportage of the actor's death to break the news that National Artist Lucio D. San Pedro had died. His attempts at being helpful proved insulting: "*Siya po ang kompositor ng* 'Sa Unggoy ng Duyan.'"

> Poverty of taste, intelligence and public goodwill, profiteering at the expense of grief, and increasing professional and ethical laxity in television journalism—these have been exposed by the networks' overkill coverage of the death of Rico Yan

The networks' resources are so awesome that they are prone to abusing them. In the case of Channel 2, just about every entertainer and every Tom, Dick and Harry remotely connected to the actor have been brought to the tube to flaunt their grief. The lunch show "MTB" even had the entire gang singing pathetically and delivering elegy after elegy while crying unabashedly. This was pornography of grief if there was one.

The funeral coverage had Cristine Bersola and Boy Abunda annotating the event, with the latter indulging in his trademark cosmology, asking rhetorically at one time, "Cristine (theatrical pause), why do we cry?" The former had at least the alertness of mind to restrain Mr. Metaphysics: "*Ewan ko*, Boy. *Sagutin mo muna ang tanong mo.*" Days earlier, Abunda had interviewed Yan's bosom buddies and made them complete his own version of the Proustian questionnaire: "I will miss Rico because . . ." or "I love Rico because . . ." The questions left the public a fruit-cakey feeling.

The fact that Abunda is host of a gossip show indicates that grief has become an important sideshow in entertainment television. It shows how grief has become part and parcel of amusement TV. More worrisome, it shows how current affairs television has been subsumed under the entertainment complex.

Debasement

This is not surprising since the networks have more and more looked at themselves as providers of "infotainment," which has really evolved into information packaged as entertainment or, worse, entertainment in the guise of information. In the case of the networks, infotainment has resulted in the "show-biz-ification" of just about every aspect of current affairs TV, and not only of entertainment. Thus we see entertainers guesting on essentially current affairs shows in which their opinions and views are asked on matters with the least connection to their work as entertainers. In many of these shows, current issues and politics are discussed and it's a marvel to see entertainers, many of them not hiding their rather cute desire to run for public office in the future, punishing the public with their two cents' worth. Especially for cost-cutting networks with a stable of contract stars, several cable channels and a host of subsidiaries like merchandising, "show-biz-ification" has allowed them to fully utilize their stars, sell their shows and fuel their downsteam industries. Of course, the downside to this is the debasement of public affairs television and its abuse as a marketing ploy to sell Jolina Magdangal dolls.

Rico Yan himself was an example of the strange mutation happening on television when he was made to produce a segment on the elections in the otherwise respectable investigative and special reports show "The Correspondents." Not surprisingly, like many of his co-entertainers, he had plans of running for public office. If he had done so and eventually won, he would have had to declare his assets and liabilities and his business involvements that might pose certain conflicts of interest with his elective post. Of course, he should have been made to account for the same involvements before "The Correspondents" gave him the go-signal to produce a report. He would have had to declare that he was an actor whose task was to "act" and "seem" like another person, perhaps a journalist; an endorser of several brands that might be sponsors of the show or contributors to political funds; and a young businessman with his own commercial interests to protect. If an applicant to a journalism job were made to conduct the same accounting, he would not have passed the test.

Crass vs. quality

What are we saying here? Poverty of taste, intelligence and public goodwill, profiteering at the expense of grief, and increasing professional and ethical laxity in television journalism—these have been exposed by the networks' overkill coverage of the death of somebody named Rico.

Ultimately, the question boils down to "balanced programming," apparently the sacred television ideal, if we go by the religious fervor with which the networks make their yearly pilgrimage to the Star Awards, given by the entertainment press. "The Network with the Most Balanced Programming" is the Star Awards' top prize. Looking at the phrase closely, one finds out that it is really an oxymoron, if not a cop-out. It gives the lie to blatant television commercialism just as long as the networks maintain a certain "balance," perhaps between profitable crass shows and unprofitable "quality" shows. Since it is common knowledge that the former comprise 90 percent of the commercial networks' calendar, "balance" is merely a gesture of tokenism. "Balanced programming" is the fig leaf to blatant TV commercialism.

Something died last Good Friday, and it was not just the Savior on the Cross. What died was public affairs television, nailed down on the cross of hysterical grief and crass commercialism by the Pilates and Pharisees of entertainment.

Death and distorted values

It is not hard to see why a young actor's death has become media fanfare. But one gets the feeling that money is being made out of a person's death

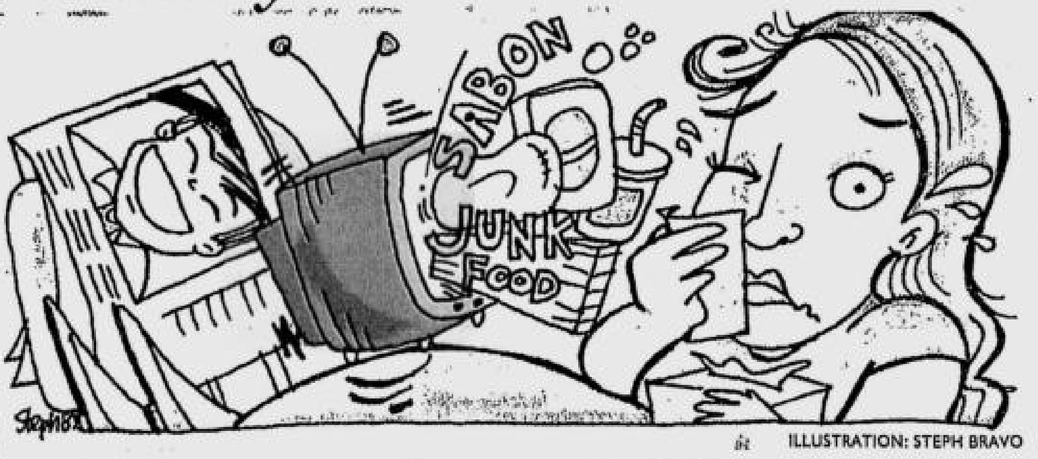


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Tarcilla A. Francisco
Contributor

THE DEATH of any person, whether a family member, a close relative or a dear friend, somehow affects all of us. There is a dull pain and a void that are somehow hard to explain.

What happens when a celebrity dies? A young man in the prime of his life who was adored by millions not only for his good looks but also for his pleasant disposition and for being a role model to the young? In the case of Rico Yan, the people wanted to know more about how he lived the last hours of his short life and countless little details that made him rich and famous. They could not have enough, and the media were only willing to oblige.

But how about the passing of two old men, National Artists for that matter, but both unheard of by today's young generations? The networks hardly bothered. They took a few lines from yellowing scrapbooks and souvenir programs good enough for a second or two of reporting, featured an interview here and there with immediate relatives and that was that. The demise of two pillars of Philippine music and literature went unnoticed by the majority. The feeling of loss was merely confined to those of a certain era or generation and of certain artistic inclinations.

Sad but true. Within a week's time and with no breathing space, the Filipino people have lost three good men. Though generations apart, the deceased were artists in their own right and somehow made a dent in the national consciousness.

Stories of their demise were treated in dissimilar manners. The death of Yan made headlines and endless TV coverage. In contrast, TV reportage on the deaths of Lucio D. San Pedro and Levi Celerio, though front-page stuff, seemed to have been taken from a general press release.

Not Yan's fault, of course. In a land bereft of present-day heroes, Yan's wholesome image and countless stories of charitable deeds somehow filled an emptiness in the people's heart. He could have done a lot more had death not intervened.

Exact opposite

In today's barren national landscape, Yan's life was not a story of kidnapping, tomfoolery, corruption, drug trafficking and abuse, fraternity murders, and rape. His life story was the exact opposite of all these, and people lapped it up.

But the attendant TV coverage, from his death at the Dos Palmas resort up to his burial, was not exactly a model in news reporting as it played up to sensationalism with irrelevant features and interviews. Television also made intrusions on the privacy and grief of the family. The last night of Yan's wake and the six-hour burial coverage were marred by crass commercialism, as seen in the numerous advertisements that were played during the breaks.

There was no quarrel with those ads featuring him and his friends goofing about. These just showed glimpses of Yan as your regular guy. Even the interviews made with his costars in the several TV series and movies he had made showed viewers what a wonderful coworker and person he was. What was irritating was the endless parade of commercials of detergents, junk food and what have you. They made the viewer feel that money was being made out of a person's death.

Add to those the mindless chitchats of the studio anchors Christine Bersola (who was wearing an off-shoulder blouse, which was not entirely appropriate for the occasion) and Boy Abunda, whose show-biz quirks should have been confined to "Private Conversations." The coverage would have been probably better with Tina Monzon-Palma and Angelo Castro as anchors. They could have employed their maturity and experience in giving grace and dignity to such a sad occasion.

As to the other news programs, it was interesting to note that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo visited the wake of the young actor and even heard Mass with the Yan family. A short footage, nothing in comparison with that of Yan's lengthy ones, showed the President visiting Celerio's family at Funeraria Paz. But how come no footage was shown of the President with the family of San Pedro? Apparently, these two artists who had contributed so much to the enrichment of Philippine culture did not deserve more airtime as deemed by the network bosses.

It is hard not to compare the Rico Yan coverage with the coverages of the deaths and burials of Princess Diana, John Kennedy Jr. and other celebrities. The viewer saw and felt the reverence and respect accorded to the events by the media people assigned to cover them.

In contrast, there seemed a carnival atmosphere here. Everything smacked of show biz in more ways than one. Probably, this was due to our culture and our distorted values.

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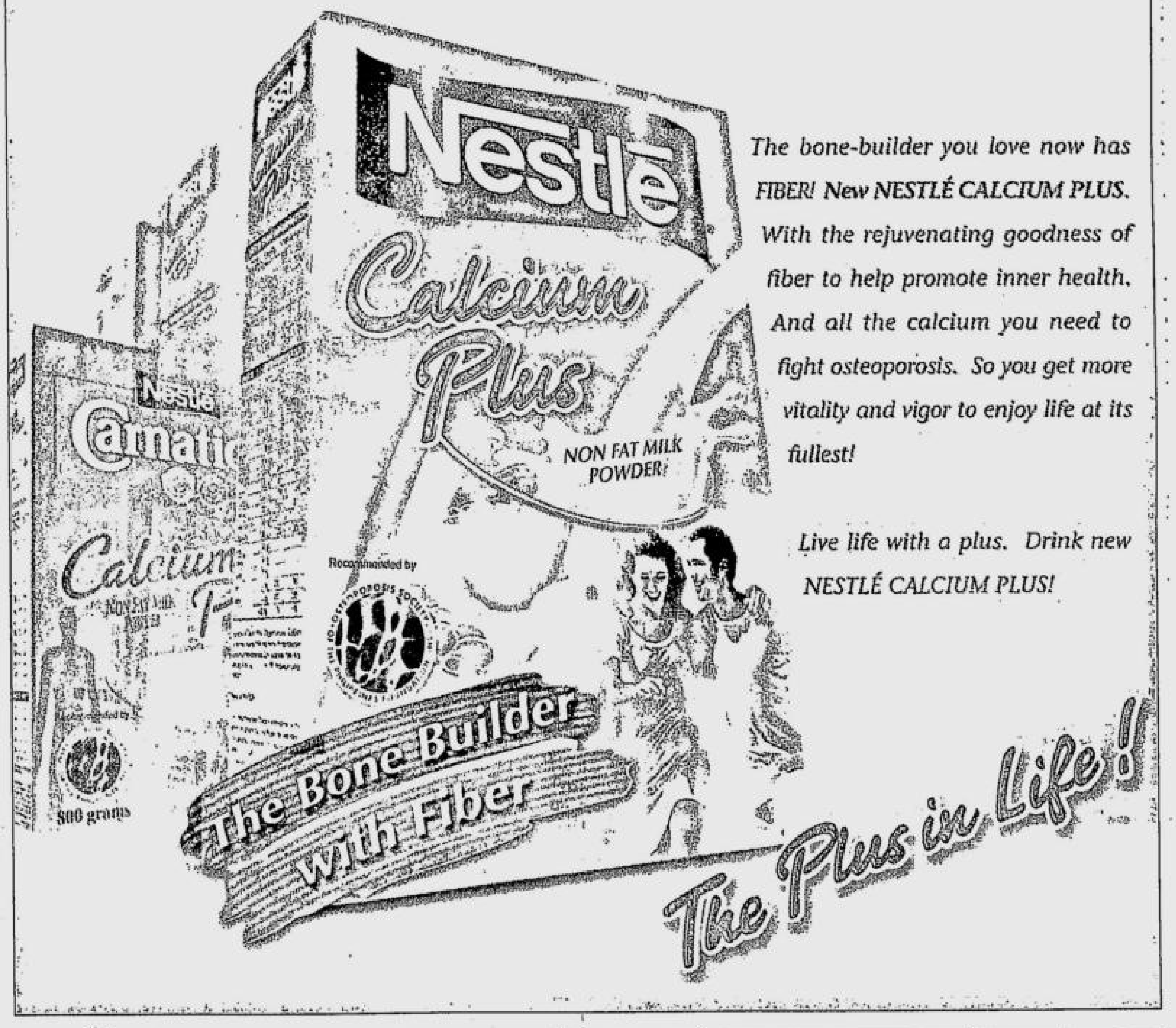

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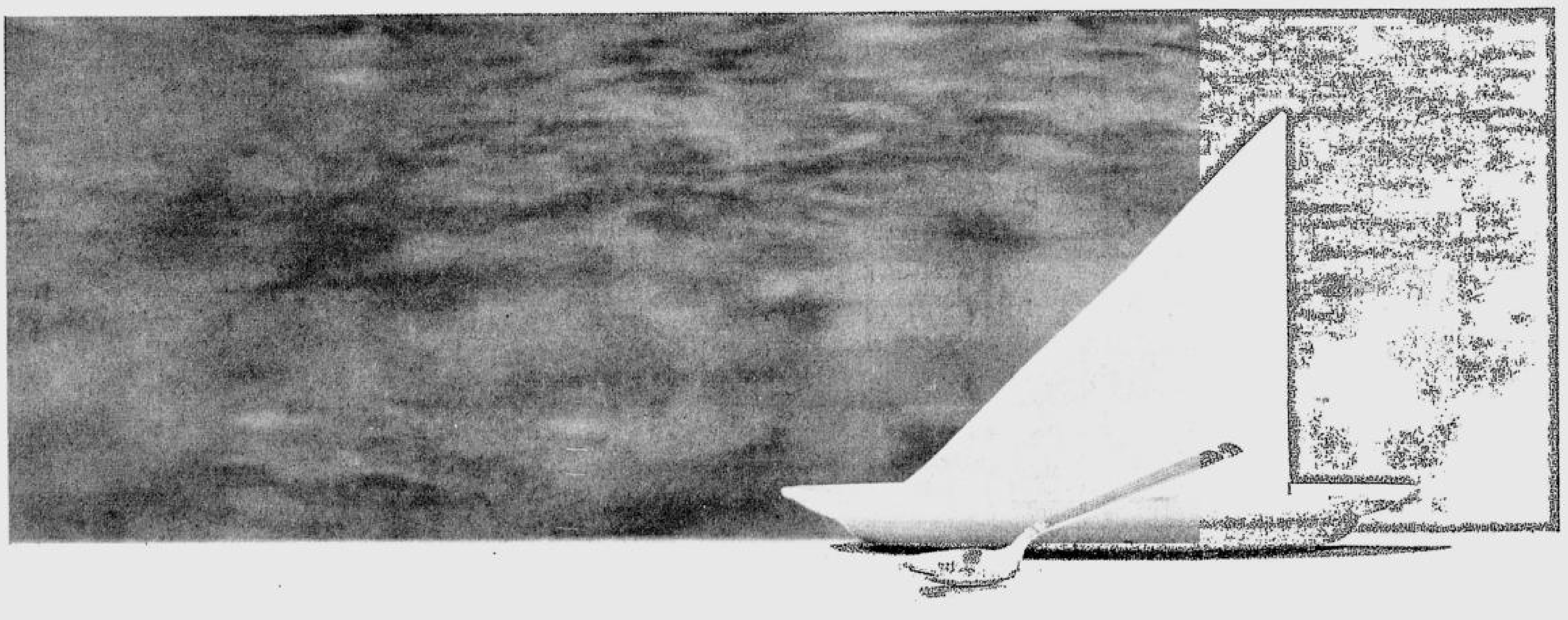

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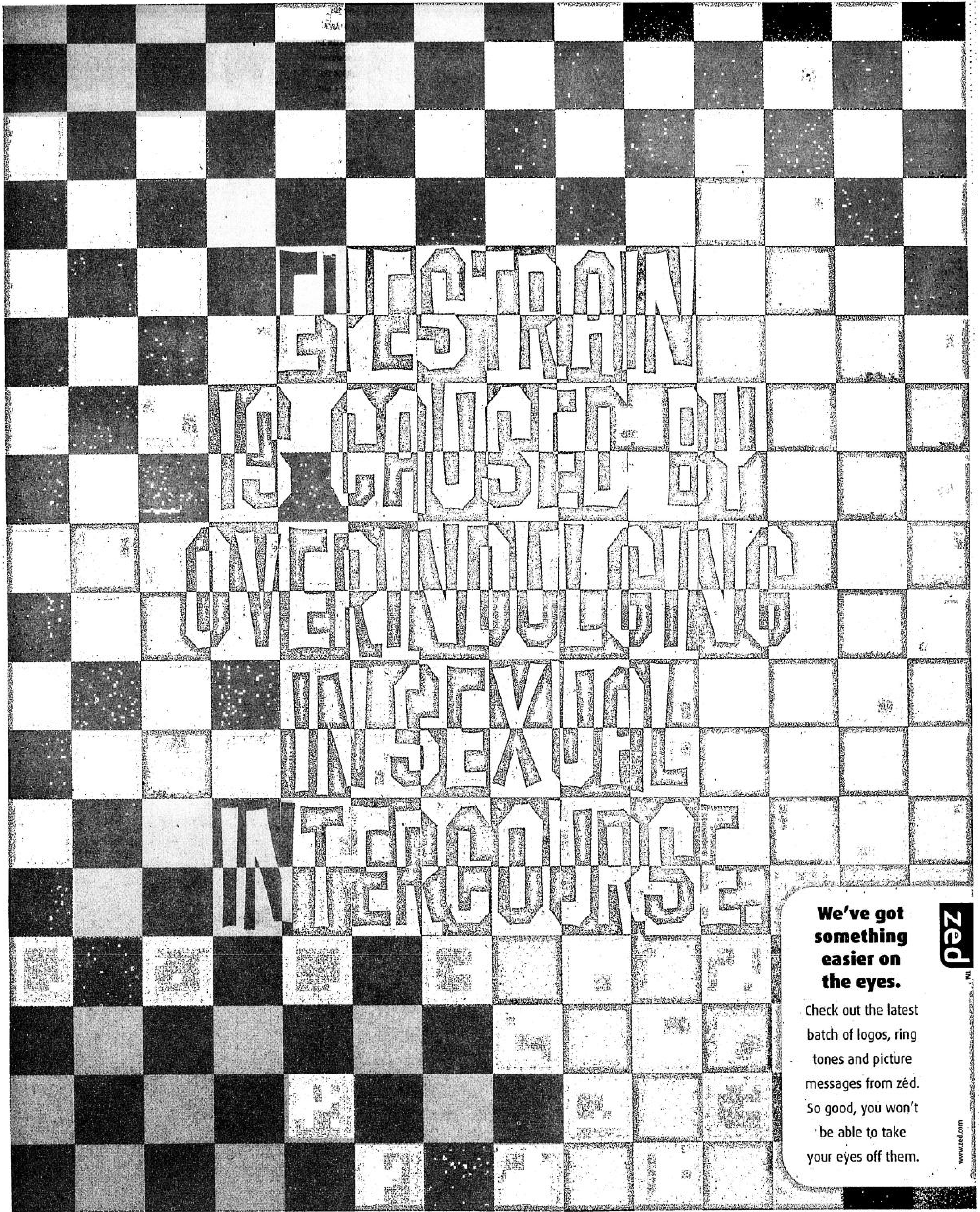

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Anna *Apo Hiking Society* **TONE ANNA** • Bakit Ang Babae *Apo Hiking Society* **TONE BAKITANG** • Batang Bata Ka Pa *Apo Hiking Society* **TONE BATANGBATA** • Blue Jeans *Apo Hiking Society* **TONE BLUEJEANS**
Disco Maw-Araw *Apo Hiking Society* **TONE DISCOARAW** • Doo Bidoo *Apo Hiking Society* **TONE DOOBIDOO** • Handog Ng Pilipino *Apo Hiking Society* **TONE HANDOGPILIPINO** • In My Life *Beatles* **TONE INMYLIFE**
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Scape Scape

Where moments of delight abound

By Cathy Babao-Guballa
Photos by Betoy Johnson

Mandarin Oriental Manila has been garnering awards and accolades for its exceptional performance in the hotel and travel industry

WHAT does it take to be listed among the top 25 hotels in Asia in the "World's Best Awards 2001" of the prestigious Travel and Leisure magazine? And what more does it take to be the only hotel in the Philippines to earn the coveted honor?

Check into the Mandarin Oriental Manila and you will find the answers. "Moments of delight" are aplenty for guests, more especially business travelers, who come and stay at this five-star hotel on Makati Avenue. "These moments are not only for our hotel guests but [also] for our employees," says affable general manager Helmut Gaisberger.

Not surprisingly, with excellent standards and a happy, well-motivated and compensated staff, Mandarin Oriental Manila has been garnering awards and accolades for its exceptional performance in the hotel and travel industry.

In August 2001 the hotel was named in the annual awards roster published in the Travel and Leisure magazine. From results tallied by Harris Interactive/Yankelovich Partners, the magazine's research and polling group, Mandarin garnered excellent marks in the five categories where it was rated—rooms/facilities, location, service, restaurants/food and value.

This year, Mandarin was voted, for the second consecutive year, as the Best Business Hotel in the Philippines by two highly esteemed business media entities—Business Asia and Bloomberg Television, based on polls conducted among readers of the magazine and viewers of the network who identified key hotels in the Asia-Pacific region that made a difference to them. Hotels were judged on a range of criteria from special business services, club and lounge facilities, conference and convention facilities and guest reward and incentive programs.

WHERE/ p.D4

MANDARIN Oriental Manila GM Helmut Gaisberger

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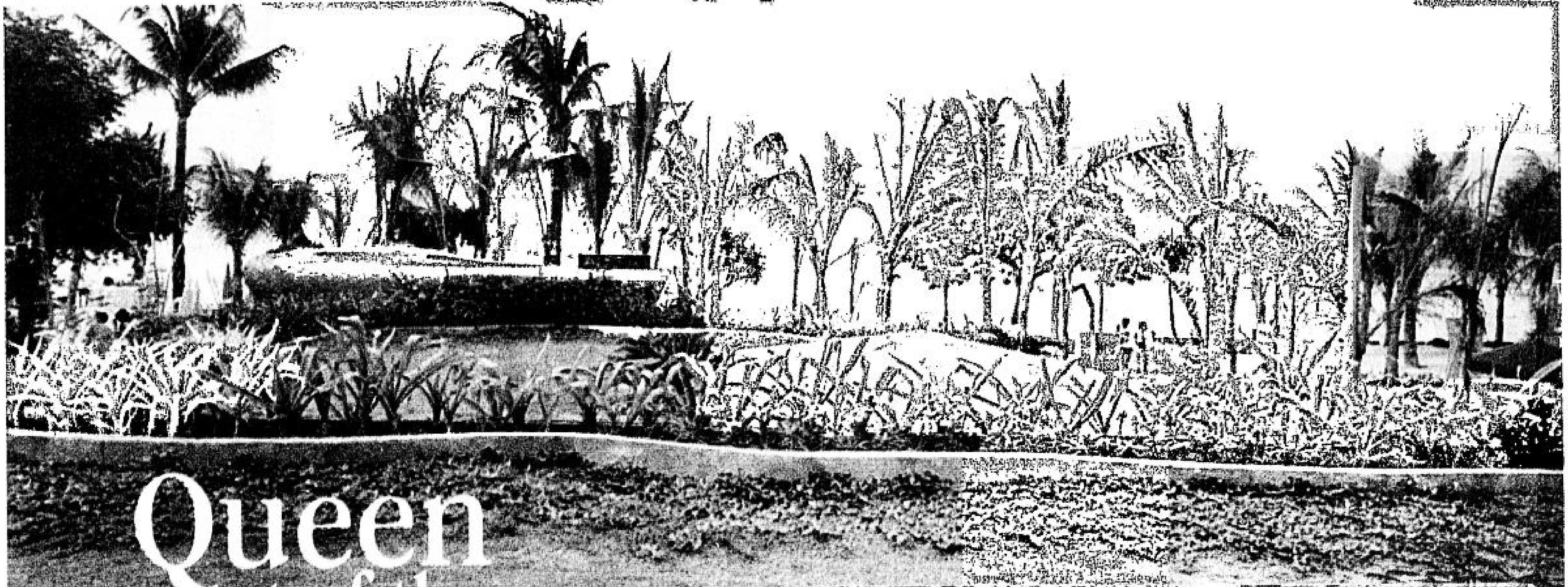
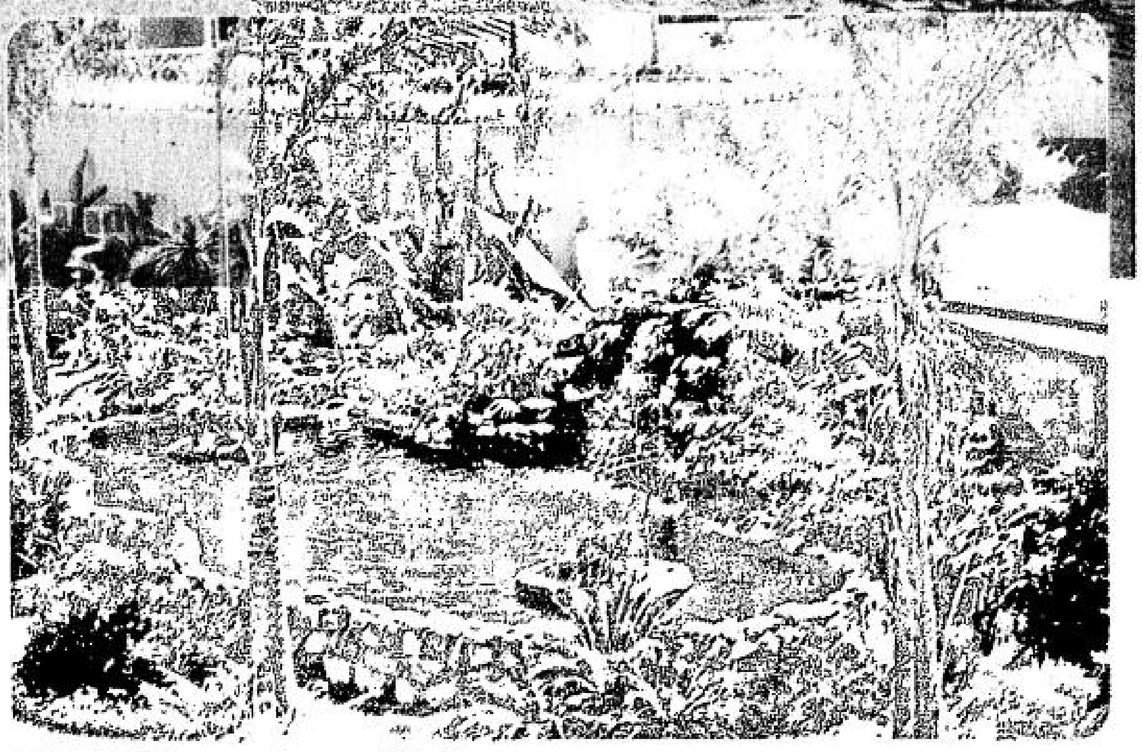


Queen consort of the queen of beaches

THE BORACAY Regency is the only hotel on the island with a real roof garden where guests can stroll.

PEACE AND HARMONY. Man and nature live in calm and serenity on Boracay



THE BIGGEST man-made waterfall in Boracay

By James Ong
Contributor

A PLEASANT place to bring your kids this summer is the newly built wing of Boracay Regency Hotel near Station 2. The phrase "the changing landscape of Boracay" takes on another meaning with a mini garden facing the shore, designed by top society landscape artist Shirley Sanders. Aside from the miniature trees and greenery, there is also a mini waterfall and koi pond. These are part of the hotel's "commitment to our growing patrons for more rooms, with the same kind of reception and hospitality we have been known for," says Boracay Regency president Henry Chusuey.

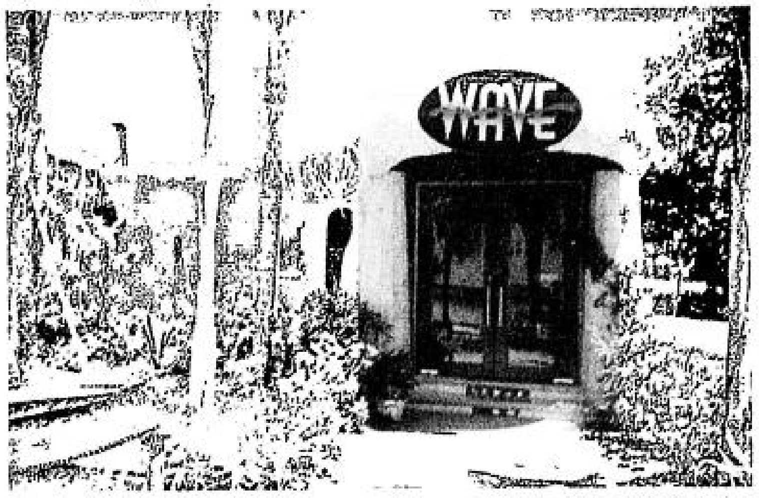
The gardens are blooming at Boracay Regency, reflecting renewed faith in the world-famous beach island's tourism potentials

And for island regulars who've grown tired of the usual hotspots, the hotel also opened a new disco and music bar that features live bands and private karaoke rooms. Now you know where to sing your own version of "Girl from Ipanema."

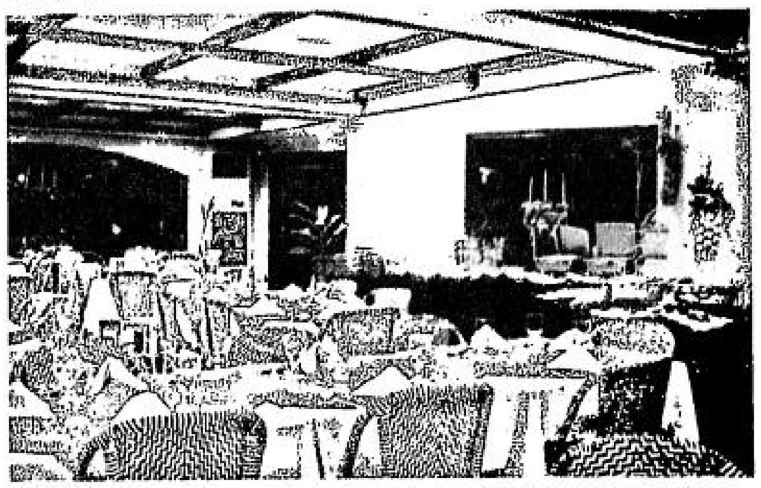
The bold new additions by the hotel are a testimony to the management's faith in local tourism, which the hoteliers are confident will rebound soon. Joining the owners in that positive outlook is Sen. Serge Osmeña, a frequent hotel guest, who promised during the new wing's inauguration last year to help push efforts to widen Caticlan's airstrip, so it could at least accommodate arriving international Asian flights.

Other visible efforts in improving Boracay include the current asphalting of the main road that is expected to make inland travel easier and more convenient.

The Mediterranean-inspired hotel, which now has a total of 85 rooms, has continuously been enjoying high occupancy rates since it opened in the mid-1990s. The new wing boasts of the best-located presidential and honeymoon suites, which go with the spectacular view of the island's world-famous clear blue waters and white powdery sand. All rooms have balconies that overlook the beach, and guests have free use of the hotel gym, massage room and fresh-water pool.



CATCH the Wave, the first and only underground beach disco in Boracay.



PRINCE Hendrik's posh interiors where guests sample the best buffet along the strip.

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Flavor of the Month
Corny Nga, Sweet Naman
ICE CREAM Nestlé®
Sweet Corn
The sweet taste of corn in rich, creamy ice cream with succulent corn kernels.
FLAVOR OF THE MONTH

FRENCH singer Larusso

The French connection

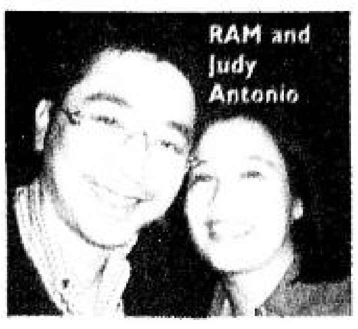
TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

YOU don't have to be a Francophile to love things French. The language, the fashion, the city, the foie gras are so chic and cosmopolitan.

Fortunately, we have an Alliance Francaise in Manila to learn the language, savor the reds and imbibe Parisian art. We were privy to a week of French festivals from exhibits to music and it was *joie de vivre.*

The French can also be as warm and friendly as any Filipino. It just depends on the weather.



RAM and Judy Antonio

Alliance Francaise director Philippe Normand

FRENCHMAN Jacques du Pasquier

LARUSSO'S dancers

TET and Anthony Suntay with Janelle So and Paolo Trillo

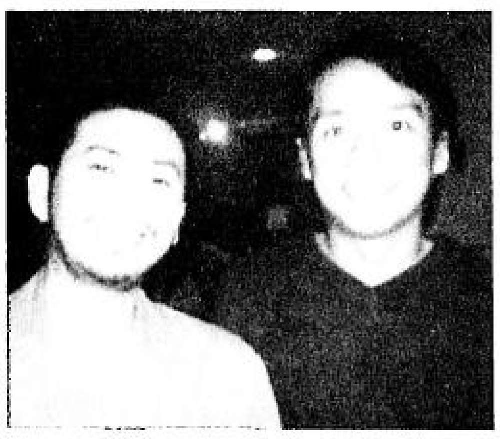
LINA Nuval, Cecile Ysmael and Mia Borromeo

FIONA Lucas and Rico Gutierrez

ALANA Montelibano and Dolly Anne Carvajal

THELMA Gana

JV Colayco of EMI Philippines



RICKY Gallardo and Jim Baluyut

BLEDES Fores and Anton Palanca

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Leo Martinez
Ponkan na Ponkan!
Ponkana
TANGERINE DRINK MIX
BETA-CAROTENE
NET WT. 750 GRAMS
Ponkana
MAY TAMIS-SARAP NG TUNAY NA PONKAN!

SERENE. Oriental Spa's reception area

COMFORT AND ELEGANCE. The Premiere bedroom

CONFERENCE room at the Club Lounge

Where moments of delight abound

From page D1

OLD WORLD ELEGANCE. Receiving room of the Mandarin Suite

Fighting boredom

Gaisberger says that to keep the staff happy, the hotel has to "keep them constantly interested in the things that they are doing. We always have something new going on in the hotel in various areas. " Boredom is the service industry's No. 1 enemy so Gaisberger stresses the importance of innovation and novelty. "You must give them something new from time to time so that they will have something to look forward to every day. I also tell them that they are not just doing a job, say for example serving a dish, but that they are 'performing.' In doing so, they put creativity in the task and add a whole new dimension."

Mandarin Oriental Manila's employees seem to be happy indeed doing their jobs as reflected in the 90-percent employee satisfaction rating the staff registered. "Even within the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, this is the highest rating," Gaisberger says with fatherly pride.

Customer feedback is another important element in the Mandarin's success. Gaisberger cites several mechanisms that allow them to really know what the customer wants. He himself goes around every day especially during lunch and dinner and talks with the guests. "I think it's very important that guests can feel management's concern and presence and that you are accessible to them," he stresses.

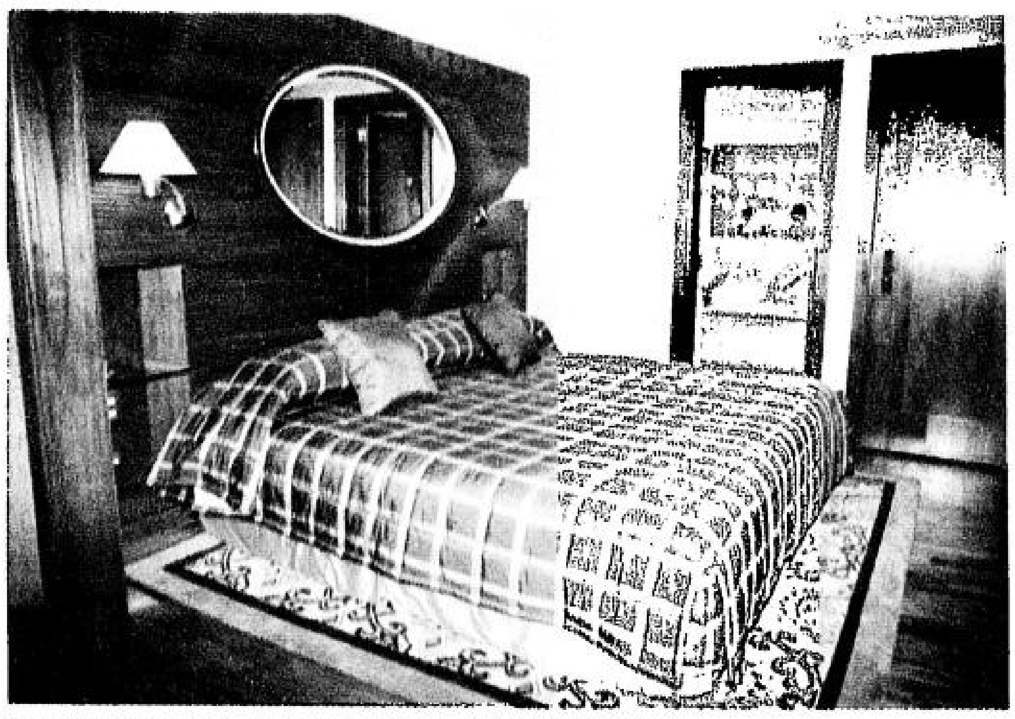
Guest comment cards are collected every day and tallied. Some 100 of the questionnaires collected every month are randomly selected and sent to the Hong Kong office for evaluation. More importantly, once a year, there is an unannounced visit by a team from the United States that evaluates every aspect of the hotel. "We don't even know who they are that's why we must always be ready for them," Gaisberger says. In addition, and even more important particularly for a tropical country, a British team that also comes unannounced once a year reviews fire, life, health and safety standards. "They check on everything, [even] the pool water. They do a total security check, they check the food etc... So far, we've always garnered a 90-percent rating, which is among the highest in the industry," Gaisberger says.

Fabulous amenities

In terms of facilities, particularly for business travelers, what the Mandarin Oriental Manila offers are fabulous. For the exclusive use of guests on the 16th, 17th and 18th floors is Club Lounge, which is intimate and relaxing with a cozy feel. Decorated and elegantly furnished with a blend of Asian and European art, it is understandable why the most discriminating business travelers choose the Mandarin and why it has, for the second straight year, been chosen as the Best Business Hotel in the country.

The recently refurbished rooms are spacious, comfortable and elegant. The premiere Mandarin Suite has two bedrooms, each with a bathroom, for travelers who bring their families. The bathrooms are fitted with showers with five shower heads to suit every person's needs. And consider the other amenities—discreet and efficient check-in and check-out; complimentary executive breakfast, evening cocktails and hors d' oeuvres; complimentary one suit/dress pressing per day; 24-hour laundry and dry-cleaning facilities with no surcharge for express or overnight service; in-room facsimile machines; a business center and three boardrooms exclusive to Club guests.

MANDARIN Suite's main bedroom


A SECOND bedroom within the luxurious Mandarin Suite

Long-staying guests (minimum of 14 nights) get an even better deal as there are added amenities and more complimentary services.

Perhaps the ultimate pampering for the business traveler, comes from the Oriental Spa that offers a special "Bathtime Menu," a fresh new approach to tranquility and rejuvenation that allows guests to enjoy a bath filled with rose petals, essential oils and sea salts amid a serene setting of candles and soothing music.

Guests can indulge their different gustatory preferences through a wide selection of food and beverages that include assorted sushi and sashimi served with hot, old *sake*; fresh garden strawberries served with half a bottle of champagne; deluxe aged cheese platter served with a glass of Perrier sparkling mineral water. An exclusive gentleman's menu for the corporate business executive offers a bath filled with relaxing salts, a newspaper and a choice of cognac and cigar.

For an even more relaxing experience, guests can go to the two-level Oriental Spa that features exotic oriental touches and offers a whole range of wellness and rejuvenation treatments that combine Eastern and Western influences. Personally, I think this is perhaps the most fabulous spa in the entire Metro Manila with treatments that are truly world-class. Teakwood dominates the spa walls and ceiling evoking the serenity of traditional Thai architecture. A virtual serene oasis, there are four stunning private rooms—each with its own bath and steam facility. One of the suites is specially designed for couples—two massage beds, two showers, with a specially fitted large shower head that makes the water fall like rain. When steam is ahead the experience feels like showering in a rainforest.

Truly moments of delight abound in this much awarded hotel—from the food to the services, to the fabulous, well-appointed rooms and the ultimate in spa pampering. The secret of Mandarin's success lies in its adherence to standards of excellence while at the same time putting their guests' needs above anything else. "Our guests recognize that we are doing a good job, " Gaisberger says. "At the same time, when they are here, they say, 'I get what I want and not what the hotel wants to sell to me.'"

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Celebrating 'E.T.'s' 20th year

THE ROBINSONS Malls celebrate the 20th anniversary of "E.T: The Extra Terrestrial" this April with Coca-Cola, United International Pictures and Robinsons Movieworld.

For starters, customers of Robinsons Food Court will have the chance to join in "Extra Treat at the Robinsons Food Court," a pick-a-prize promo where special "E.T." and Coca-Cola premium giveaways are at stake. Promo runs until May 1 in participating food court outlets in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Novalices, Robinsons Place Bacolod, Robinsons Place Iloilo and Robinsons Starmills Pampanga.

Loyal shoppers of Robinsons Place Novaliches increase their chances of winning special premium items every time they purchase P200 worth from any Robinsons Place Nova store outlet, including Big R, Robinsons Department Store and The Handyman.

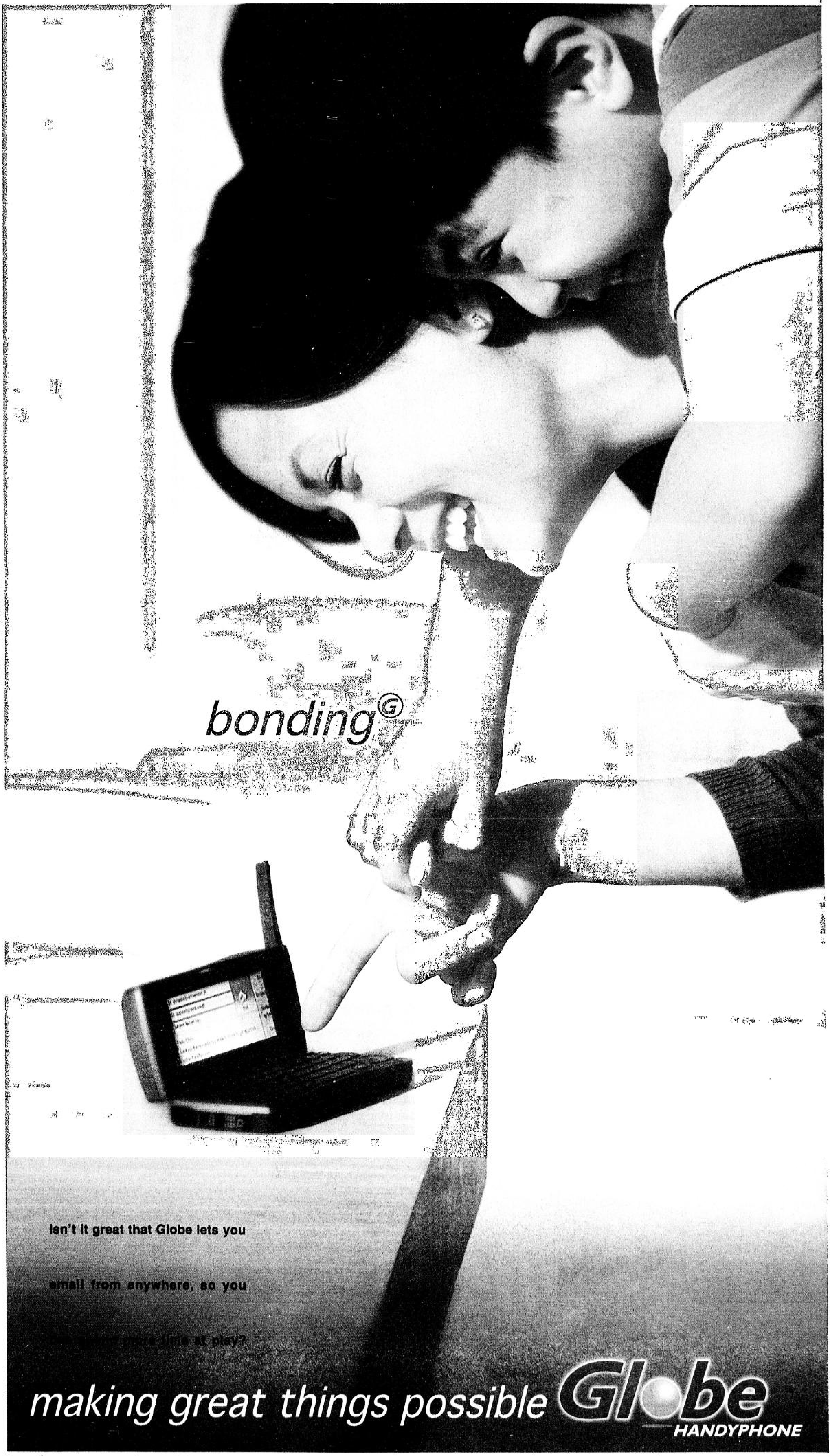
Call 633-7641 to -90 local 175 or 176.

Supermarket holds big raffle

BIG R Supercenter recently held the grand draw of its "One for the Family Anniversary Raffle Promo." Bedroom, kitchen and living room showcases were given to Luz Mamangun, Remegilda Sampao and Norma Gamboa.

According to Lorna Tamayo, marketing manager, the raffle was held to thank shoppers for their patronage of the store since it opened in November 2000. She promised more customer-friendly bargains and promos.

NORMA Gamboa (center), winner of a kitchen showcase, receives her prize from Big R Novaliches customer service section head Stephanie Calica and senior marketing coordinator Third Salanguit.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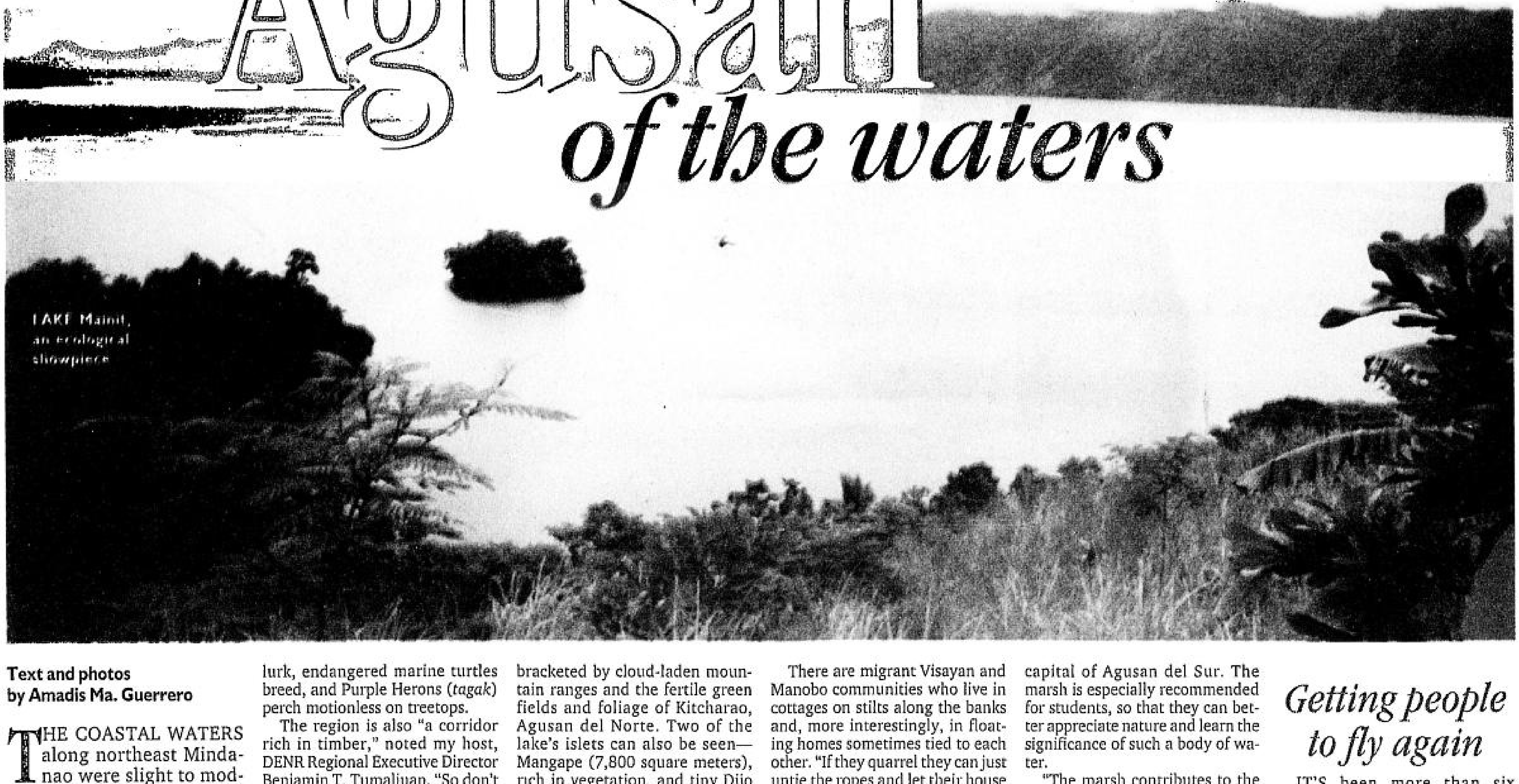
TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**

Agusan of the waters



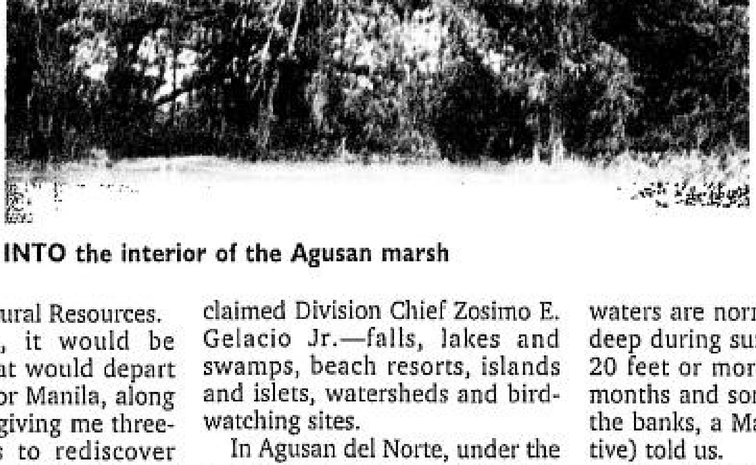
LAKE Mainit, an ecological showpiece

Text and photos by Amadis Ma. Guerrero

THE COASTAL WATERS along northeast Mindanao were slight to moderate although it was raining in the mountains. The ship glided toward Nasipit Port near Butuan City, capital of Agusan del Norte, which has a long history dating back to 320 A.D.

I saw denuded mountains with patches of green, a scattering of trees along the contours, and a few seaside villages. It must be lonely here at night, I imagined.

SuperFerry 9 docked at Nasipit that Wednesday morning, following two-hour stopovers at the cities of Cebu and Surigao. The voyage had taken some 42 hours. As I descended the gangplank, I glimpsed a placard bearing my name being waved. It was my tour guide, forester Crisley J. Sapid of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



INTO the interior of the Agusan marsh

On Saturday, it would be SuperFerry 8 that would depart Nasipit-Butuan for Manila, along the same route, giving me three-and-a-half days to rediscover Agusan del Norte and discover Agusan del Sur. ("Agusan" means "where the waters flow" in Malay.)

With this sortie into the south, Agusan del Sur became the 72nd province I would visit, out of our total of 78 provinces. There remain only six provinces I have not been to: Batanes, Catanduanes, Southern Leyte, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

The two Agusans and two Surigaos comprise Caraga (Region 13), formerly part of Northern Mindanao. It is known for its wildlife and wetlands where crocodiles lurk, endangered marine turtles breed, and Purple Herons (*tagak*) perch motionless on treetops.

The region is also "a corridor rich in timber," noted my host, DENR Regional Executive Director Benjamin T. Tumaliuan. "So don't be surprised if you see logs along the way," he said. "Logging is regulated here. These are planted species, and there are plans to export the finished products."

The plantations teem with falcata, gmelina, bagras and other trees but there are dipterocarp species in the mountains, said forester Sapid,

The DENR's Protected Areas & Wildlife Division has identified numerous ecological destinations in Caraga, including caves—"There must be hundreds!" exclaimed Division Chief Zosimo E. Gelacio Jr.—falls, lakes and swamps, beach resorts, islands and islets, watersheds and bird-watching sites.

In Agusan del Norte, under the jurisdiction of Provincial Environmental Officer Edilberto S. Buiser, the ecological showpiece is Lake Mainit. In Agusan del Sur, under Provincial Environmental Officer Mario L. Eludio, it is the Agusan Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Lake Mainit, a watershed shared with Surigao del Norte, has a land area of 70,456 hectares and a water surface of 14,000 hectares. These sprawl over the boundaries of 12 towns in the two provinces.

The view from the hilltop DENR Rest Area Park is exhilarating—the lake's silvery blue waters bracketed by cloud-laden mountain ranges and the fertile green fields and foliage of Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte. Two of the lake's islets can also be seen—Mangape (7,800 square meters), rich in vegetation, and tiny Dijo (70 square meters), where only the treetops are visible.

"Lake Mainit is one of the cleanest lakes in the country," declared Community Environment Officer Consolador C. Mantilla, and one can believe him. There is a plan to build a "multipurpose tourism center," supposedly to include a floating hotel and restaurant, in the area. (A billboard announces that Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. will bankroll the project.)

The Agusan Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary (110,000 hectares) may not be as clean or as postcard-pretty as Lake Mainit, but it has a sweepingly majestic aura all its own.

A pumpboat ride through the marsh is quite an experience for a first-timer, like something out of a Joseph Conrad novel.

The muddy waters are normally just six feet deep during summer, but rise to 20 feet or more during the wet months and sometimes overflow the banks, a Manobo *lumad* (native) told us.

Four big lakes are found in the sprawling, enormous and meandering body of water. Some areas of the marsh are wide-open spaces while in other portions water hyacinths get in the way, all but blocking your path. Varied species of trees, mangroves and foliage in profusion form a natural gorge.

We saw two Purple Herons, one etched against the sky, the other resting upon the willows.

Native and migratory birds fly over the area and, during their feeding time of 5 to 6 a.m., can be seen in great numbers.

There are migrant Visayan and Manobo communities who live in cottages on stilts along the banks and, more interestingly, in floating homes sometimes tied to each other. "If they quarrel they can just untie the ropes and let their house float somewhere else," joked forester Rufino M. Miranda.

Manobo children shouted with delight when we waved at them from the boat.

The waters teem with mudfish (*dalag*), catfish (*hito*), carp, *tilapia* and even eel (*igat* or *casili*, as it is called in these parts), which may weigh up to 10 kilos and which look like—gasp—an anaconda.

Eel costs P500 per kilo in Metro Manila. *Casili* is a delicacy in Agusan and is served (with *tausi*) in the best restaurants in Butuan. The Manobos, on the other hand, are good at smoking mudfish *daing*-style. Selling at three pieces for about P100, this is a popular *pasalubong* (take-home) food among traders.

My hosts from the DENR Integrated Protected Areas System bought some mudfish and cooked these for supper. We ate with our hands. Along with steaming rice the fish was fine, the saltiness just right.

The military and the New People's Army have each established a presence in the area. In fact, "the NPAs collect (taxes) so they can buy prepaid cell phone cards," said DENR Operations Chief Carlos A. Gubat.

Bunawan town southeast of the marsh is the usual jump-off point to the wildlife sanctuary, and it is accessible by bus from Cagayan de Oro, Davao City, Butuan and Prosperidad, the capital of Agusan del Sur. The marsh is especially recommended for students, so that they can better appreciate nature and learn the significance of such a body of water.

"The marsh contributes to the biodiversity of the area," noted Gubat. It also protects Butuan and the towns in the downstream basin from disastrous floods. It stores more than 15 percent of the country's freshwater resources, provides livelihood for *lumad* and migrants, and serves as habitat for endangered species and as feeding grounds for native and migratory birds.

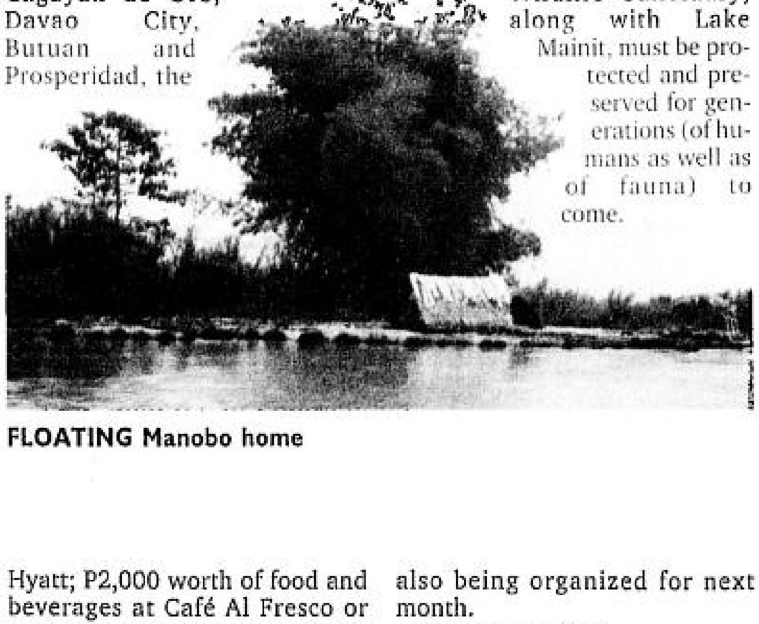
Unfortunately, the ecological balance of the Agusan marsh is under attack. Unscrupulous persons engage in illegal forms of fishing and cut down trees. Mining wastes from Diwalwal, Compostela Valley Province, pollute its waters.

Because mining, like fishing and farming in the marsh, provides livelihood to thousands of families, this is a thorny political issue involving two regions (Caraga and Southern Mindanao).

The ecological importance of the marsh has been brought to the attention of the international community.

In November 1999, the Ramsar (Iran) Convention on Wetlands designated the Agusan marsh as a wetland site (the 1,009th) of international importance. This means that the site is entitled to assistance from the World Bank, but proposals to save and rehabilitate it have to be made right away.

The Agusan Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, along with Lake Mainit, must be protected and preserved for generations (of humans as well as of fauna) to come.



FLOATING Manobo home

Getting people to fly again

IT'S been more than six months since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States that caused the airline and travel industries to grind to a near-halt, and people are still wary of taking trips.

But while this is true of the airline industry in North America, the picture is different in Asia, according to Abacus International, Asia-Pacific's largest global distribution system and computerized reservations system.

Abacus president and CEO Don Birch said in an interview at the recent launch here of TravelSmart-Asia that passenger traffic in the Asia-Pacific airline sector managed to grow by 3 percent last year despite the economic difficulties.

"Australasia was considered a choice destination because it was considered safe, meaning stopovers like Singapore and Hong Kong are doing well," he said. "Southeast Asia is also popular with European holiday makers."

Birch estimated that bookings to the Philippines would likely increase along with the rest of the region as tourists began to feel more confident about traveling again.

The Philippines may even snatch some of the bookings away from other countries by providing what travelers need in these trying times, he said.

Birch disclosed the results of a survey conducted late last year among 100 middle-class professionals, which showed that 31 percent of tourists liked to go to seaside resorts for their holidays, followed by mountain resorts, romantic getaways and family holiday destinations.

With the Philippines' seaside and mountain resorts, it can get a slice of the pie. But 60 percent of the respondents said they would be motivated to travel if the price was right, Birch said.

This is why almost all of the airline companies across the globe have slashed prices by as much as half. Many of the preferential rates, however, do not extend to peak seasons such as December.

In the survey, the other reasons to return to the skies were better travel information, choices and tips on traveling to a certain country, doubling of frequent flyer miles and free travel insurance.

Abacus' tactic to entice more travelers was to launch TravelSmart-Asia, which provides information on travel safety as well as tips and advisories issued by various countries in the region.

The information can be accessed at www.abacus.com.sg.

"Now, more than ever, people need better-quality, up-to-date information to make wise travel choices," Birch said.

Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Short cruises

CARNIVAL Cruise Lines is offering year-round four- and five-day western Caribbean cruises on the 1,452-passenger MS Holiday. The new cruises will kick off on April 27.

Mina Tanchi, general manager of Sampaguita Travel, Carnival's appointed agent in the Philippines, said the new program represented the ship line's latest effort in expanding the short-cruise market.

Prices for four-day cruises from New Orleans begin at $279 per person, and five-day cruises, $299 per person. A seven-day cruise from San Juan is available starting at $549 per person. All rates are based on double occupancy.

Call 892-1121-23 or e-mail crnvlph@compass.com.ph.

SUMMER fun at HIM poolside

Hotel packages

HOLIDAY Inn Manila's "Summer Breakout," a package for local residents, is exclusive for families of two adults and two kids.

The price of P2,200 net covers a day's use of a standard room; free use of swimming pool and gym; P1,000 worth of food and beverage vouchers, consumables; and Playroom pass for the kids.

The package is valid until May 31. Call (632) 526-1212 ext. 2333 and 2340; fax to (632) 526-5566; or e-mail reservations@manila.holiday-inn.com.ph.

* * *

AT THE HYATT Regency Manila, the "R & R" package (P3,000 net per night, Fridays to Sundays; P3,500 net per night Mondays to Thursdays) includes deluxe room accommodation; buffet breakfast at Café Al Fresco and 50-percent discount for kids up to 12 years old; free use of swimming pool and Fitness Suite; and free entrance to Calesa Music Bar and Lounge.

The "Kiddie Fantasy Family Treat" (P4,950 net) offers a short out-of-town adventure. It includes "ride-all" admission tickets for four persons at the Enchanted Kingdom; an overnight stay at the Hyatt; P2,000 worth of food and beverages at Café Al Fresco or Tempura Misono; free use of swimming pool and Fitness Suite; and free entrance to Calesa Music Bar and Lounge.

Both packages are valid year-round. Call 833-1234 ext. 8595-97 or e-mail reservations@hyatt.com.ph.

Pilgrimages

A SERIES of pilgrimage tours to sacred sites in Europe has been prepared by Adam's Express Travel, a pioneer in pilgrimages.

Planned departure dates and destinations are: May 5, Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland) and Russia; May 11, Turkey, Greece, Egypt and Russia; and May 13, Russia, Eastern Europe and Medjugorje.

A special trip to Switzerland, France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Belgium and the Netherlands is also being organized for next month.

Call 521-1638/51.

New office

THAI Airways International's general sales agent, Asia Pacific Chartering Inc., recently moved to a new office located in the center of the country's travel-oriented establishments.

Khun Chertchai Methanayanonda, the airline's general manager for the Philippines and Guam, and Thai Ambassador Busba Bunnag led the ceremonial ribbon cutting assisted by Thai-APC president Lino Bondoc and passenger operations manager Marilen Dinglasan.

The new office is at HG-8, Ground Floor, Manila Midtown Hotel, Pedro Gil corner Adriatico Streets, Ermita, Manila, and may be reached at 522-5472, 522-5477 or 522-5481.

Unilab Nutritionals

providing many "firsts" in nutritional products from infancy to adulthood

From infant formula to milk supplement for adults, Unilab Nutritionals has stood by its commitment of enhancing the nutritional needs of many Filipinos. Since its inception in July 1995, Unilab Nutritionals, formerly Philippine Health Food Center, Inc., has given birth to a number of breakthrough products.

MyLac*

The first prescription-based starter formula with DHA precursor (Docosahexaenoic Acid) and MCT (Medium-Chain Triglycerides). DHA is important for babies' proper brain and retina development while MCT provides energy for babies' rapid growth.

Hi-Nulac*

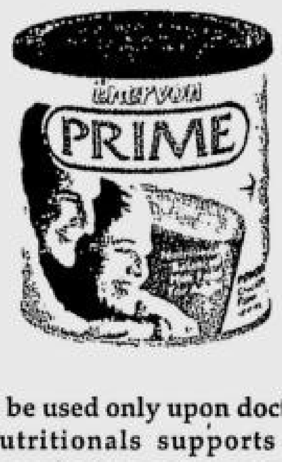
The first prescription-based follow-on infant formula that contains the right amount of WHEY protein to aid babies' physical and mental development.

calciumade

The first and only high calcium orange drink formulated to help prevent the onset of osteoporosis in women.

The first and only chocomilk drink for junior adolescents with 33 stamina-builders.

The only high calcium non-fat milk especially formulated for women that contains fiber, vitamin E and iron to address a woman's specific needs.



The nutritionally balanced milk food for adults to help them in aging well.

* Mylac and Hi-Nulac should be used only upon doctors' prescription. Unilab Nutritionals supports the breastfeeding program of the government. Breastmilk is still best for babies.

THE FAMILY: The heart of our business

In every carton or can of instant powdered milk and granulated juice lies our uncompromising dedication to the Filipino family.

If one is to look at the line-up of products that we have, one will soon discover that every member of the family has been taken into consideration. Whether it's our starter formula for infants, chocomilk drink for junior adolescents, high-calcium orange drink for women or milk food for adults, the family is always at the core of our heart.

Unilab Nutritionals

But how do we make sure that every product we have is the best possible one for each member of the family? We bring together a science-led and a consumer-led approach in running our organization. This means that we invest and rely on research to find out the real and specific needs of each consumer while taking into consideration their perceived needs.

Like the family, we work with utmost intimacy. We build better understanding of our consumers while working together closely to achieve our goals. We intimately marry Filipino talent with foreign technology to provide first-rate products.

Even as we grow at an unprecedented rate, we will not forget our reason for being. And whatever it takes, we will do it for the family.

Evolving to meet your challenging needs

More than six years ago, we were established as Philippine Health Food Center, Inc. (Philhealth). Years later, we would be known as the company that carries big names in food supplementation.

In the recent years, we have witnessed the advancement in science and research as well as the changing needs of consumers.

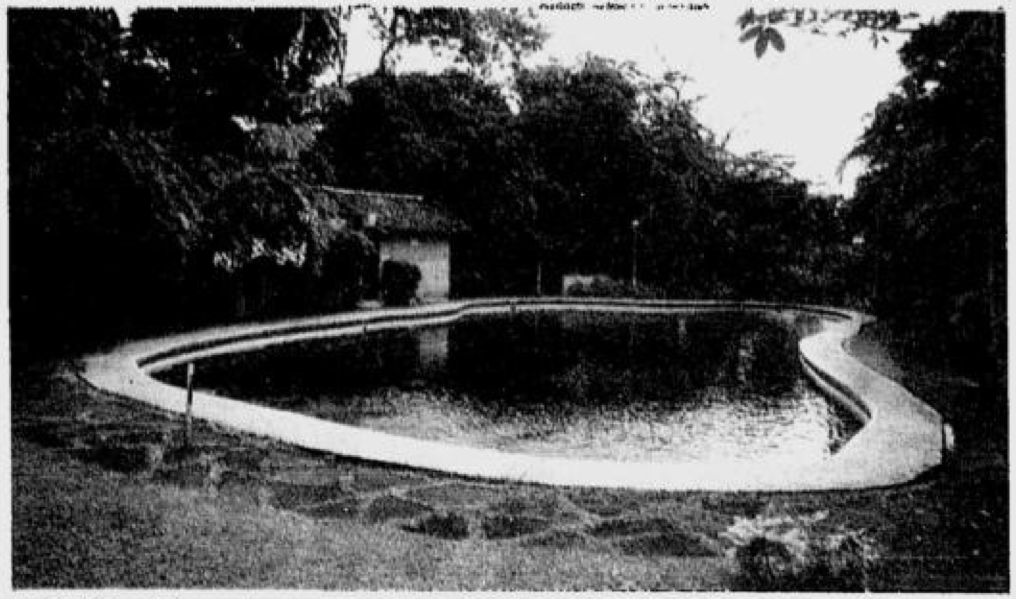
This gave us the impetus to carry on the role of being the company that provides solutions to the various nutritional needs of Filipinos across all ages.

As consumer nutrition became our focus, we will now be known as Unilab Nutritionals. Unilab, being the name of our mother company which has been known as the pharmaceutical company that understands the needs of consumers. Nutritionals, on the other hand, embodies our ideal of providing quality nutrition for all ages.

All these in response to the challenging needs of the Filipino family.

DOÑA Jovita Garden Resort

Ornamental plants, fruit-bearing and shade trees dominate the landscape of Doña Jovita Garden Resort



A GIANT public pool

Communing with nature at the foot of Mt. Makiling

DOÑA Jovita Garden Resort and Copa de Oro are nestled in a 1.5-ha lot in a not-so-hidden valley at the foot of Mt. Makiling, Km 57, National Highway, Bagong Kalsada, Calamba, Laguna.

An hour drive from Makati City, Doña Jovita Garden Resort has ornamental plants and flowers, and a variety of fruit-bearing and shade trees. While the resort has almost left nature untouched, the Copa de Oro Leisure Club boasts of a Mediterranean influence.

Doña Jovita has space for 1,000 daytime visitors, with a giant public pool as well as large, medium and kiddie pools. There are regular and air-conditioned cottages, whirlpools, picnic huts, playgrounds and tree houses. The resort offers facilities for camping, bonfires, mountain trekking, slide rides and rappeling, ping pong, billiard, volleyball, biking, horseback riding and fishing. At the end of an exhausting day, guests can unwind at the TJ Bistro with its soothing music.

The resort's Tita Lettie's Filipino Cuisine offers a variety of Filipino meals and seafood dishes like Silog (*sinangag at itlog*), Binalot sa Dahon breakfast fare, *kare-kare*, *pinakbet*, *bulalo*, crispy *pata*, *lechon kawali*, *laing*, *ginataang tilapia*, *pinaputok na pla-pla*, *sinigang*, *ihaw-ihaw*, spicy chicken wings, *sisig*, sizzling *pusit*, *kilawin na tanguigue*, *calamares* and *chicharon bulaklak*.

An impressive A-frame structure made of bamboo and *anahaw*, the main dining hall is complemented by six adjacent native huts suited for groups of six. The main hall and huts have a total capacity of 96 persons.

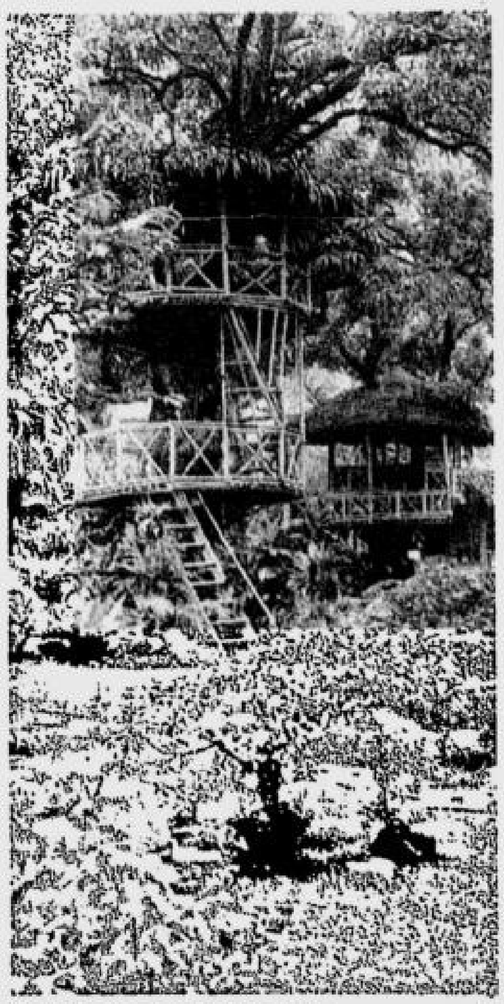
The Copa de Oro Leisure Club is suitable for weddings, reunions, anniversaries and seminars.

Call 842-2057, 807-0245 or (049) 545-3740.

Doña Jovita Garden Resort

HORSEBACK riding at the resort

FILIPINO meals at Tita Lettie's



TREE house and picnic huts

where do you want to bee this summer?
SUN, SEA and Jollibee
SUMMER PROMO

Exciting summer destinations await you! With every visit to Jollibee, get a chance to win a trip for two to Boracay, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Cebu, Cagayan, Davao or Manila!

Promo Period: April 1 - May 15, 2002

See posters and flyers and visit participating Jollibee stores for details.

Per DTI-NCR permit number 0553, series of 2002

CEBU PACIFIC Fa American Tourister Manila Galleria Suites Barceló Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center The Dynasty Court Hotel The Worldview Boracay / Terraces bee happy

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Weddings Engagements

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Getting to 50 by letting go

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

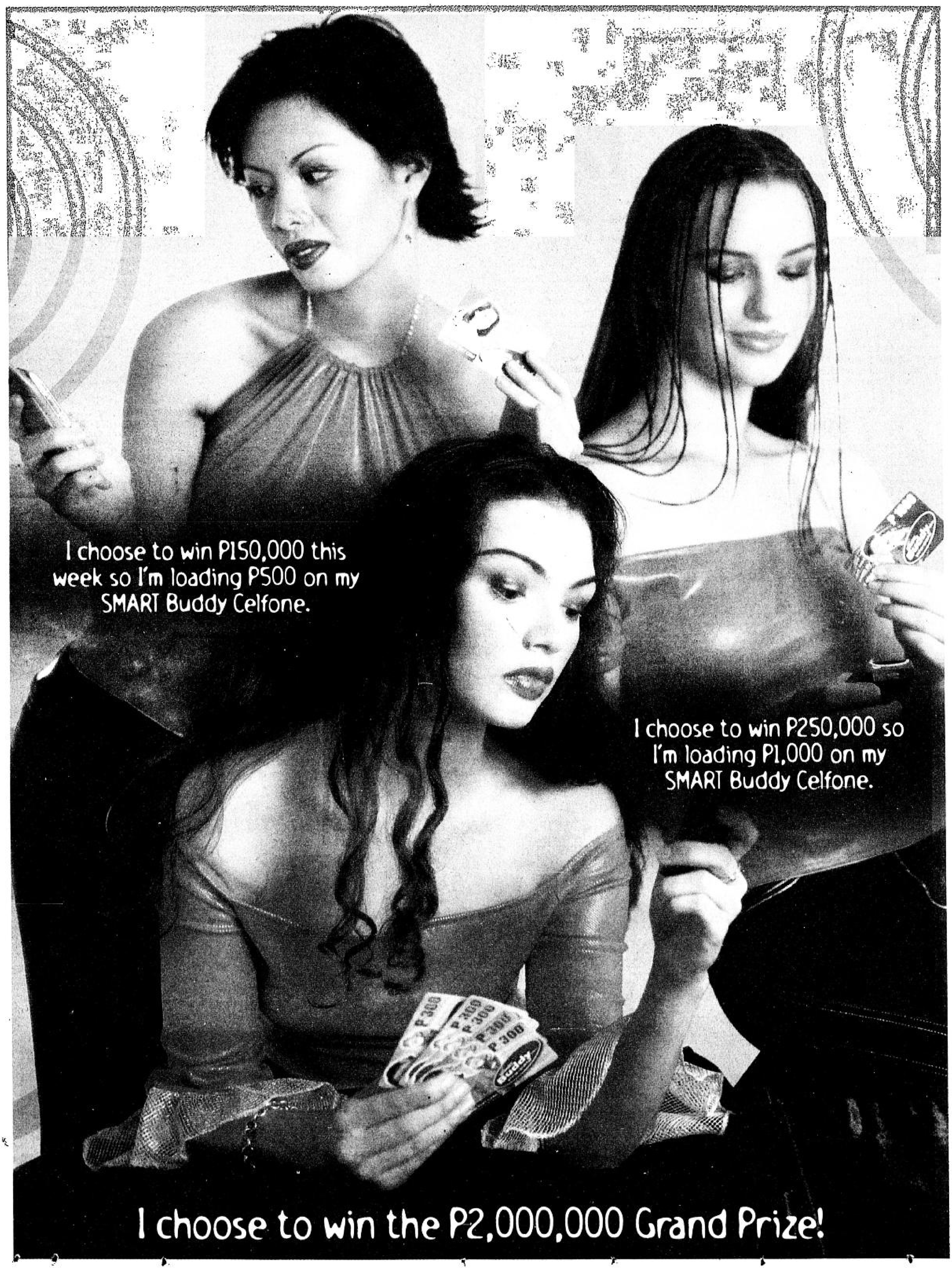
SOME time this year I will be celebrating our golden wedding anniversary. What this means to me may be a bit different from what it means to others because I like to think it is not a renewal of vows but rather a renunciation of them. From this day forward there will be no more promises to keep, no more vows to break, no more expectations. It is a celebration of what, finally and at last, after 50 years of living together, each partner fully deserves—complete freedom (or almost).

I asked my husband what he liked most about our long life together. And he said: That we learned not to get in each other's way. More poetically put: Giving each other lots of room to grow. But did it have to be a whole square mile? We were solidly bonded in common interest areas (the children and their families and eating in gourmet places). Other than that it was to each his own.

And it was all the time what I thought had been the flaw in our unbliss! People always

GETTING/ p.E4

> You work out whatever marriage you have and it comes out the best and only one for you


I choose to win P150,000 this week so I'm loading P500 on my SMART Buddy Celfone.
I choose to win P250,000 so I'm loading P1,000 on my SMART Buddy Celfone.
P 300
I choose to win the P2,000,000 Grand Prize!

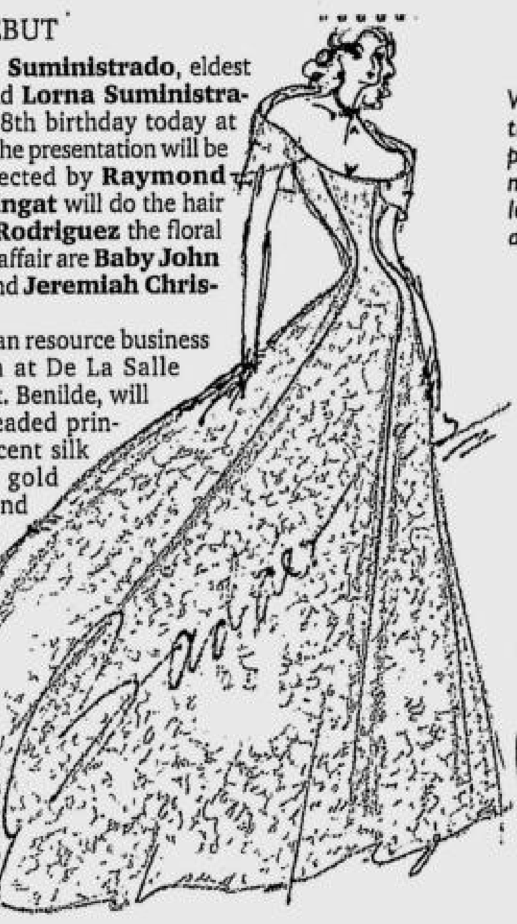
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availabilitv and at no cost to the sender.

SUMINISTRADO DEBUT

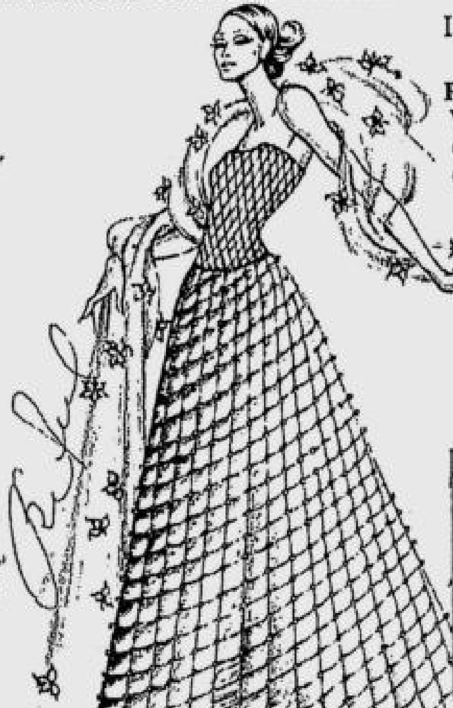
Apple Katherine A. Suministrado, eldest daughter of **Enrique** and **Lorna Suministrado**, will celebrate her 18th birthday today at Fernwood Gardens, QC. The presentation will be choreographed and directed by **Raymond Villanueva. Eric Maningat** will do the hair and makeup, and **Tony Rodriguez** the floral décor. Her escorts for the affair are **Baby John Henry Suministado** and **Jeremiah Christian Millare**.

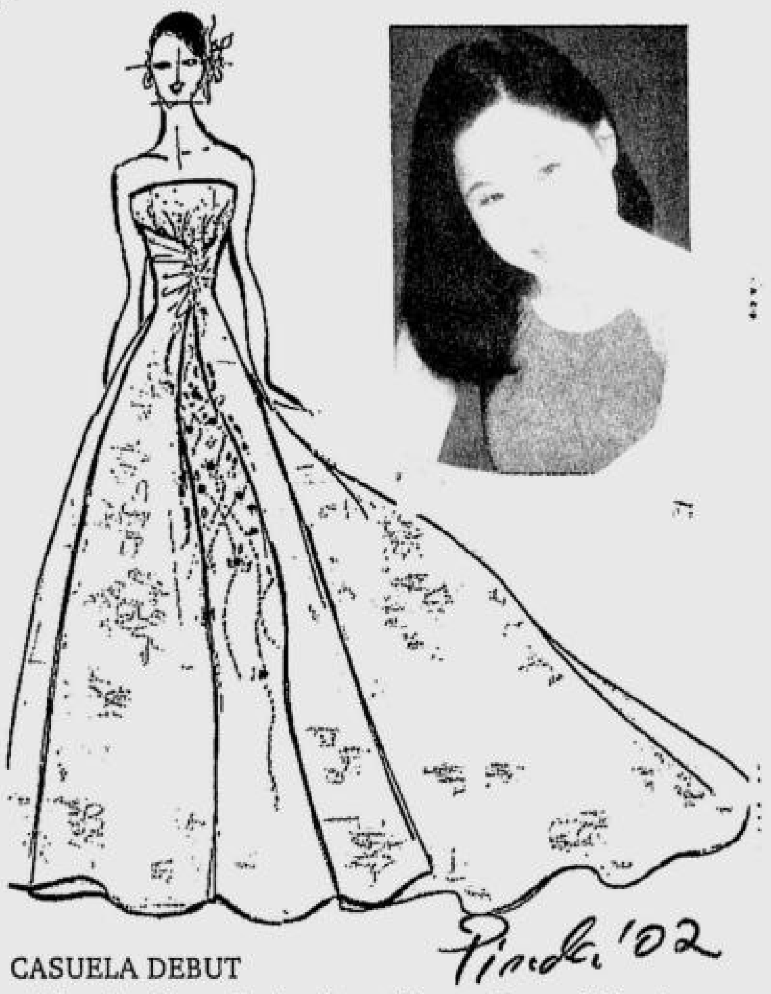
The debutante, a human resource business management freshman at De La Salle University's College of St. Benilde, will wear an orange fully beaded princess-cut gown in iridescent silk organdy and metallic gold lamé lining designed and executed by **Eddie Baddeo**.



ISON DEBUT

Marie Stephanie Rose S. Ison, daughter of **Vince** and **Mercy Ison**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Feb. 23, at the Villa Immaculada, Intramuros, Manila. The debutante wore a **Ben Farrales** creation.





CASUELA DEBUT

Nina Joy Casuela, daughter of Doctors **Der** and **Magda Casuela**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on April 13 at the penthouse of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Eric Pineda designed two gowns for the debutante. The first is a strapless pale yellow ball gown in monochromatic Italian satin with a draped overlap of tie-dye printed golden yellow silk organza. It is fastened at the waist with handmade floral appliqués with crystals. The bodice and skirt are sprinkled with yellow faux pearls, caviar beads and iridescent sequins. Yellow roses and liliums will adorn her hair. She will then change into a salmon-peach one-shoulder outfit with an asymmetrical hemline embellished with rainbow hued bugle beads and rhinestones.

TUMBOKON-CRUZ

Sharon Cruz, daughter of **Tomasito** and **Maria Tita Cruz (née Fernandez)**, recently exchanged matrimonial vows with **Radiel Tumbokon**, son of engineer **Ramon** and Dr. **Rachel Fernandez-Tumbokon**, at the Basilica of San Sebastian in Manila. The bride wore an off-shoulder gown by **Mila de Leon**. The dinner-reception was held at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

APDIAN-MACATUGGAL

Jose Joel Santiago Apdian II of Westmont Pharmaceuticals and **Aileen Hegina Macatuggal** of United Laboratories tied the knot on May 19, 2001 at Christ the King Church, Green Meadows Avenue, QC. Reception was held at the Acropolis Greens Clubhouse, Libis, QC. **Boyet Aguilar** designed the bride's gown.

DEL MUNDO-CASTANETO

Reginald del Mundo, son of **Reynaldo** and **Fe del Mundo**, wed **Joyce Dahlia Castaneto**, daughter of **Jesus** and **Adalia Castaneto**, on June 23, 2001 at the Central United Methodist Church, Ermita, Manila. Reception followed at the Holiday Inn Manila. **Edward Teng** designed the gowns of the bride and her entourage.

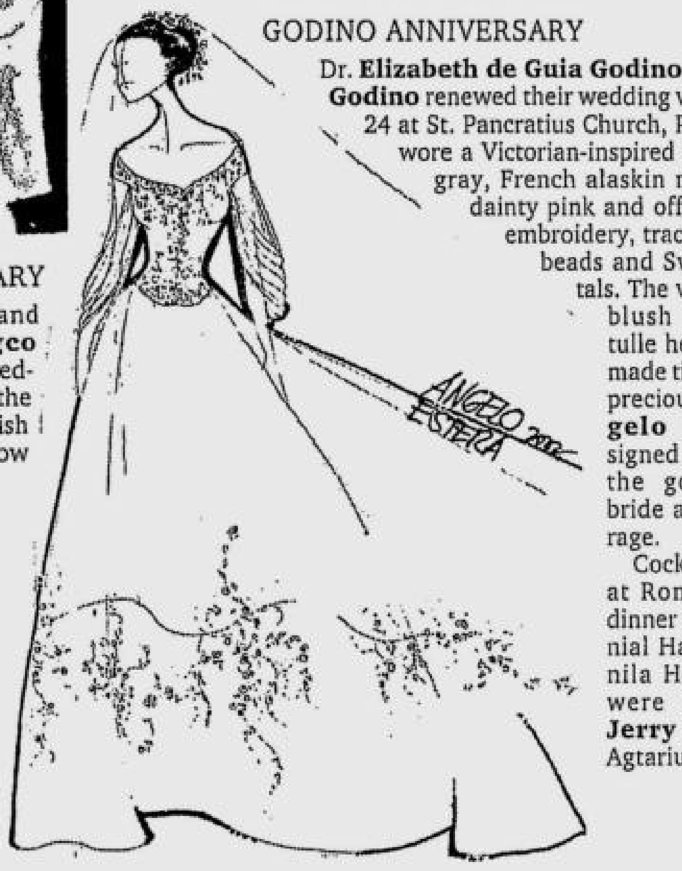
TIONGCO ANNIVERSARY

(Ret.) Col. **Melecio** and **Ignacia Rubio Tiongco** will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary today at the Saints Peter and John Parish Church. Reception will follow at the Makati Shangri-La.

GODINO ANNIVERSARY

Dr. **Elizabeth de Guia Godino** and **William Godino** renewed their wedding vows on March 24 at St. Pancratius Church, Paco Park. She wore a Victorian-inspired gown in pearl gray, French alaskin material, with dainty pink and off-white rosette embroidery, traced with caviar beads and Swarovski crystals. The veil was of soft blush pink French tulle held by a handmade tiara with semi-precious stones. **Angelo Estera** designed and executed the gowns of the bride and the entourage.

Cocktails followed at Roma Salon and dinner at the Centennial Hall of The Manila Hotel. Flowers were provided by **Jerry Mosende** of Agtarium.



ENGLER-PEDRO

Walter Engler and **Mabel Pedro** exchanged marriage vows at the Basilica de San Sebastian on April 6. Walter is the eldest son of Mr. and Ms **Roger Engler** and Mabel is a daughter of Mr. and Ms **Don Pedro**. Reception followed at Fr. Blanco's Garden in Intramuros, Manila.

Full coordination of the wedding preparation was handled by **Benjie Autencio** of Wedding March. **Noe Reyes** designed the bride's wedding gown, the groom's *barong* and gowns of the entourage.

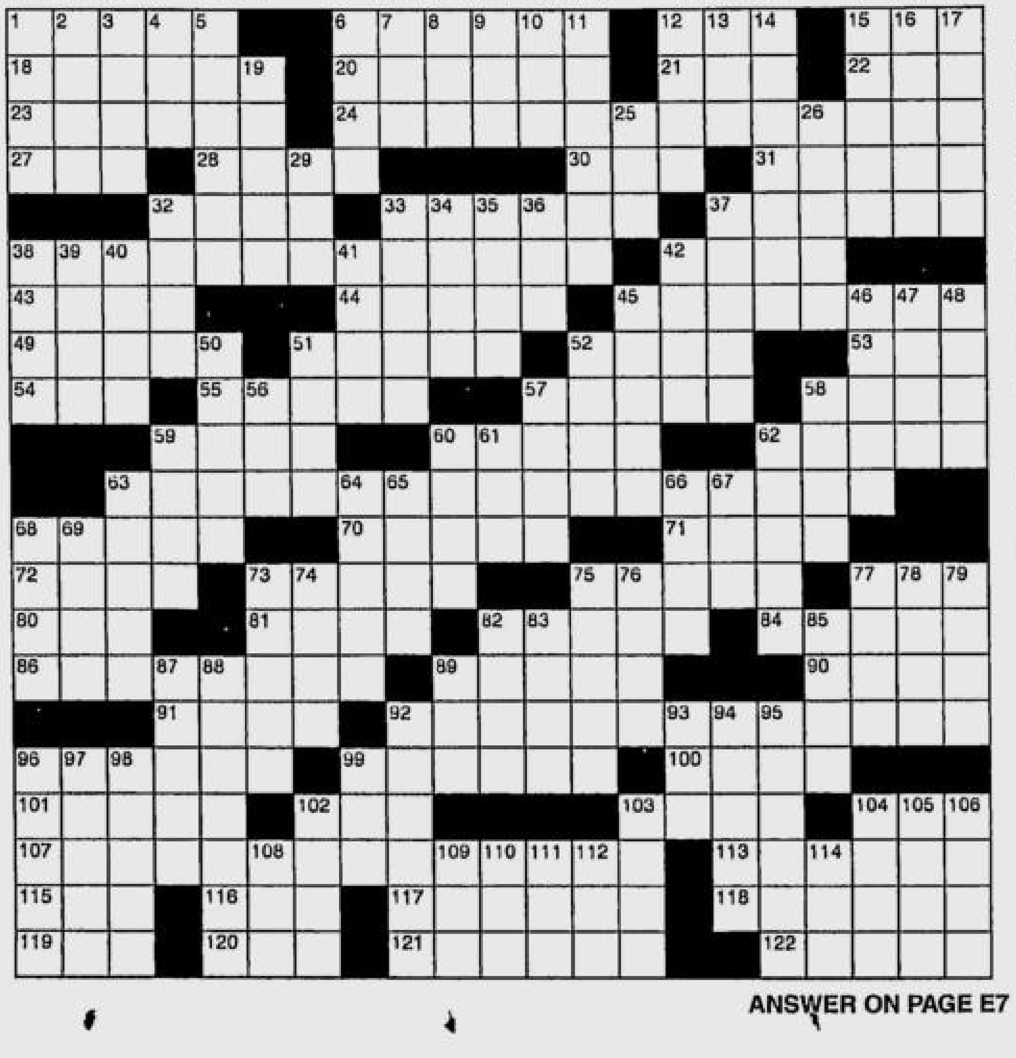
ESPERANZA-FONTE

Dr. **Jonas Jiuseppe Iglupas Esperanza**, son of the late Capt. **Jose** and **Evelyn Esperanza**, and Dr. **Maria Cristina Julia Alberto Fonte**, daughter of Vice Gov. **Jose** and **Julieta Fonte**, exchanged marriage vows on April 20, 2001 at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception followed at the Maynila Ballroom, Manila Hotel.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Brandy bottle
6 Singer MacRae
12 Prone
15 Cratchit kid
18 Chatter boxes?
20 Melville or Munster
21 Corporate VIP
22 Tokyo, once
23 Giza god
24 DST Salman Rushdie book?
27 Itch
28 Little hit
30 Manner
31 Jeweler's measure
32 Self starter?
33 Meddle (with)
37 It may be grand
38 DST Gary U.S. Bonds hit?
42 One of the Waughs
43 Component
44 Pop
45 Jaclyn Smith, for one
49 Did nothing
51 Deck of destiny
52 Moo juice
53 Director Craven
54 Computer acronym
55 Acts like a stallion
57 Hiawatha's transport
58 Harvest
59 Pickling herb
60 "— Comes Mary" ('66 song)
62 Frank book
63 DST Spencer Tracy film, with "The"?
68 "Rise and —!"
70 Barter
71 Isolated
72 Lewis or Long
73 Clean the sink
75 Jambalaya ingredient
77 Palm oil?
80 Bird-to-be
81 Yarn
82 Cairo creed
84 Diminish
86 Chime
89 Dwight's competition
90 Busy as —
91 Israeli airline
92 DST Count Basie song?
96 Underside
99 Crooner Rudy
100 Notes from Verdi?
101 Wield
102 — -tac-toe
103 Desire deified
104 Word with on or off
107 DST Vogues tune?
113 Unwrinkled
115 Author LeShan
116 — polloi
117 "The Far Side" cartoonist
118 Paraguayan title
119 Dress size
120 Actor Brynner
121 Proofreader's list
122 Spoken for

DOWN
1 Brawl
2 Metallic fabric
3 Mideastern gulf
4 Transgression
5 Agile Olga
6 Worn-out
7 Barnyard belle
8 Literary preposition
9 "— Believer" ('66 hit)
10 Flight
11 Respond
12 "— Breaky Heart" ('92 tune)
13 I.M. the architect
14 "The Hobbit" author
15 — incognita
16 Perfect
17 — Carlo
19 Cook fast and hot
25 Subway unit
26 Monkey or pony
29 Neither's partner
32 Jocular Johnson
33 City on the Loire
34 Curly coif
35 TV's "America's — Wanted"
36 Set
37 Stroke of luck
38 Piccadilly pound
39 Reverse
40 Sneezes and wheezes
41 Aspen apparatus
42 Singer Guthrie
45 Church support?
46 Deal with a nose
47 Glum drop?
48 Discern
50 Ambition
51 Hard to believe
52 Palomino's pride
56 Yalie
57 Harbor locale
58 Lestat's creator
59 Say it isn't so
60 Out of range
61 Cover
62 Couturiere Karan
63 Artist Velazquez
64 Bikini, e.g.
65 Factual
66 Chowder ingredient
67 Sound like a Shorthorn
68 Molt
69 "Les Miserables" author
73 Word with bath or shovel
74 Summon
75 Mary Kay —
76 Banister
77 Off-limits
78 List entry
79 Nest noise
82 Adored one
83 Gin flavoring
85 — California
87 So out it's in
88 Mottled
89 Woodworking tool
92 Fishing gear
93 Paddle
94 Angry
95 Robert Wright musical
96 Assail
97 Nitrous —
98 Denison denizen
99 Damone or Dana
102 Hard work
103 Best or Ferber
104 "—, Ma! No hands!"
105 Raison d'—
106 Comparative word
108 "Hulk" Ferrigno
109 Card game
110 Rink legend
111 Pretoria's loc.
112 Realtor's offering
114 Actress Munson



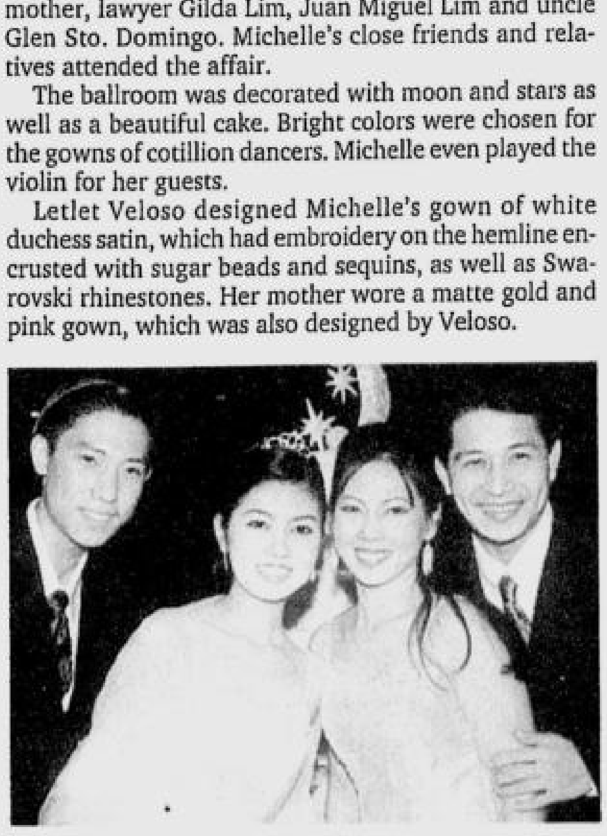
ANSWER ON PAGE E7

Debutante's glittering celebration

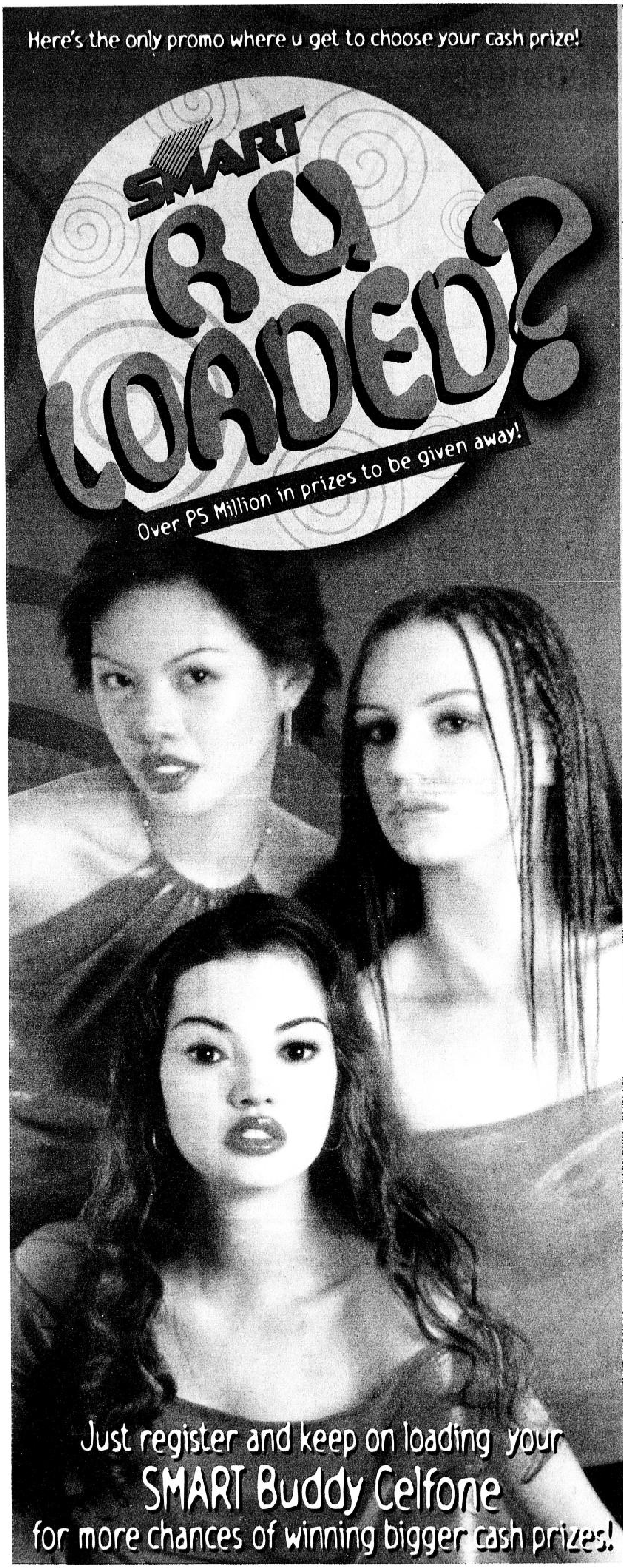
A FEW months ago, Michelle Lim celebrated her 18th birthday at The Maynila of The Manila Hotel, with her mother, lawyer Gilda Lim, Juan Miguel Lim and uncle Glen Sto. Domingo. Michelle's close friends and relatives attended the affair.

The ballroom was decorated with moon and stars as well as a beautiful cake. Bright colors were chosen for the gowns of cotillion dancers. Michelle even played the violin for her guests.

Letlet Veloso designed Michelle's gown of white duchess satin, which had embroidery on the hemline encrusted with sugar beads and sequins, as well as Swarovski rhinestones. Her mother wore a matte gold and pink gown, which was also designed by Veloso.



JUAN Miguel Lim, the debutante, mom Gilda Lim and Glen Sto. Domingo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WEEKLY CUMULATIVE VALUE OF RELOADS PER SUBSCRIBER	RAFFLE ENTRIES	PRIZES
P300	2	P50,000
P500-P900	2	P150,000
P1000 and up	2	P250,000

[illegible]

GOLD PLAN [illegible]	GOLD PLAN [illegible]	GOLD PLAN [illegible]	RAFFLE ENTRIES	PRIZE AT STAKE	MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING	ADD'L RAFFLE ENTRIES	PRIZE AT STAKE
40*	[illegible]* (Corporate)	[illegible]* (Corporate)	2	P50,000	P500 - [illegible]		
80	P600	P900	4	P150,000	P1000 up	2	P250,000
120 & 160	P1250	P1135	6	P250,000	P1500 up	3	P250,000
200 & 300	P1600	P1495	8	P250,000	P2500 up	3	P250,000
750	P3000	P2800	10	P250,000	P3100 up	3	P250,000
1000	P4000		12	P250,000	P4500 up	3	P250,000

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	PERIOD COVERED	DRAW DATE	PRIZES AT STAKE
1st Weekly Draw	April 1 - 7, 2002	April 8, 2002	[illegible]
2nd Weekly Draw	April 8 - 14, 2002	April 15, 2002	do
3rd Weekly Draw	April 15 - 21, 2002	April 22, 2002	do
4th Weekly Draw	April 22 - 28, 2002	April 29, 2002	do
5th Weekly Draw	April 29 - May 5, 2002	May 6, 2002	do
6th Weekly Draw	May 6 - 12, 2002	May 13, 2002	do
7th Weekly Draw	May 13 - 19, 2002	May 20, 2002	do
8th Weekly Draw	May 20 - 26, 2002	May 27, 2002	do
9th Weekly Draw	May 27 - June 2, 2002	June 3, 2002	do
10th Weekly Draw	June 3 - 9, 2002	June 10, 2002	do
11th Weekly Draw	June 10 - 16, 2002	June 17, 2002	do
12th Weekly Draw	June 17 - 23, 2002	June 24, 2002	do
13th Weekly Draw	June 24 - 30, 2002	July 1, 2002	do
GRAND DRAW	April 1 - June 30, 2002	July 8, 2002	One winner of P2,000,000.00

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Getting to 50 by letting go

From page E1

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

asking me at a party/wedding/reunion/wake: "Why are you alone? Where is your husband?"

One time a friend who had been going to our house for two years without ever encountering my mate in the corridors (he avoided everyone) related she was at the building where my husband used to work. Suddenly the loudspeaker blared, "Car of Atty. Fernando." My friend said she watched for our car to pick him up from the entrance. Later, she phoned me excitedly, "I saw him! I finally saw him!"

Too different

It was funny yet embarrassing. So contrary to everything that had been brainwashed in me. After all, wasn't "togetherness" what married couples were supposed to strive for?

We were just too different. We did not enjoy the same things. He was reserved and terribly conservative. He wasn't a square, he was a cube. I was a double helix. He had his friends; I had mine. Our peace depended on keeping our activities apart as much as possible (though not in repressing them). Some who came to our house for meetings, I'm sure, secretly suspected we were estranged. Like the singer who, upon learning about our coming celebration, asked tentatively, "But he comes over to visit, doesn't he?" Since she never saw my husband, she assumed he was living next door! It would be funny if it weren't so awful.

Sure, he was present in all my awardings, but only lately was it because he really wanted to be there. When we were younger, he once confessed during a bitter quarrel, "You think I was there during that Palanca Awards dinner? I was in the bar across the street! I only came back when it was time to go home. And you never even knew." He then declared what would henceforth be the rule of his married life: "Don't expect me to be at any of your artist parties. Your friends are nice to me, but I don't like feeling like an appendage. And it's worse when you worry about me."

It was the shock of my life. He was an intelligent, highly respected corporate executive, and later, government official. But he could not hack closer, more personal encounters with strangers. It took me a while to digest that, to understand the well of anguish that it sprang from.

Obstacle course

Being two headstrong people, we had boulder-size misunderstandings. Filipino husbands don't talk things out with their partners. When they do it's just to make temporary peace. Adjusting to each other is a matter of *pakiramdaman*. What about my rights, a younger wife might protest. You gotta be kidding! Women's libbing in the Philippines is bad manners. Arguing for rights over the dinner table never won the day, for me anyway.

What I liked most about our marriage was that, painful as the mistakes were, we learned from each of them. Every stumbling block became a learning module. Maybe that's why God doesn't put too many soul mates together in same lifetime—in a thoroughly harmonious union there isn't much to learn from each other. As for us, it was a Ph.D. Obstacle Course (and I think we graduated summa cum laude).

A woman's life is shaped very much by whom she marries. If you marry a prince, then you have no choice but to act like a princess. I thought, if I had married so-and-so we would have been a pretty conventional, even religious couple. (Nah, too boring!) On the other hand, if I had married so-and-so—read, hippie and artist—I'd probably be working my ass off to support a family. But our lifestyle would be really colorful. (Attractive but too taxing.) If I ended up with so-and-so, however, I would probably have my pick of cars in the garage. But would the stingy sonnafabitch ever fund my brilliant (?) but losing theater productions? (Disaster.)

Well, I guess that's it. You work out whatever marriage you have and it comes out the best and only one for you. In my case, I guess the major kink I had to work out was how to hack it alone socially. How not to let having to explain or not to explain kill me. How difficult it was! Inside me I was a valley of tears.

Modus vivendi

How could I tolerate such a life! But when I entered his room one day, I saw it all with new eyes. Lined up on the shelves were all shapes and sizes of tapes, batteries, scissors, glue, P1 coins, strings, magnets, clips, pencils, ball pens, Post-Its, envelopes—name it. And I realized why I had loved him all these years. I could rely on him—not just for pens and things, but for everything. Advice on an investment, a trip, a gift, the right wine, the right taste for a dish, how to get to Rody's house, how my article reads (except this one). (On the other hand, my job was to prop up a growly capricorn, to show him the other side of gloom, no mean feat for a flying gemini). He grounded me and I felt safe with him. He was my Rock of Gibraltar. Never mind if rocks don't kiss and aren't so sociable. Providing is caring, it is love, and how often that is taken for granted.

It was a matter of getting into the other's shoes. I had put murals and all kinds of bizarre artworks in our house. I love going out with artist friends and entertaining them at home (although I had to steer them nervously away from common areas). My house was my work and party place, and sometimes it was littered with costumes. Wasn't it just as difficult for a man like him to adjust to that?

When we finally got comfortable with our nontogetherness, we recognized it as the happiest modus vivendi. We could, at any given time, eat lunch together, or in the same house at two different hours, or sleep in different rooms without any resentment. Go to the same mall and see different movies. Better still, each could finally go out at any hour of the day or night without having to account for anything (unless we wanted to).

> Maybe marriage is not supposed to make you lesser than you are but to make you realize you can be more than you are

How does one get complete freedom? By giving it! (I'll tell you when I'm all there.) But maybe it's the difference between imposing a right and earning it. You mean no house rules as in no boundaries? Isn't that quite the opposite of what friends advise you? What if he quits the job he dislikes? (Then he'll follow his bliss and be a winner.) What if he finds his way back to an old sweetheart? (Well, wouldn't you want to find out once and for all?) Maybe that's why people don't achieve a state of freedom until they are pretty mature and can honestly say, why not? Enjoy your life. It's short. Seize what's left of the day. It's my gift to you.

Cosmic results

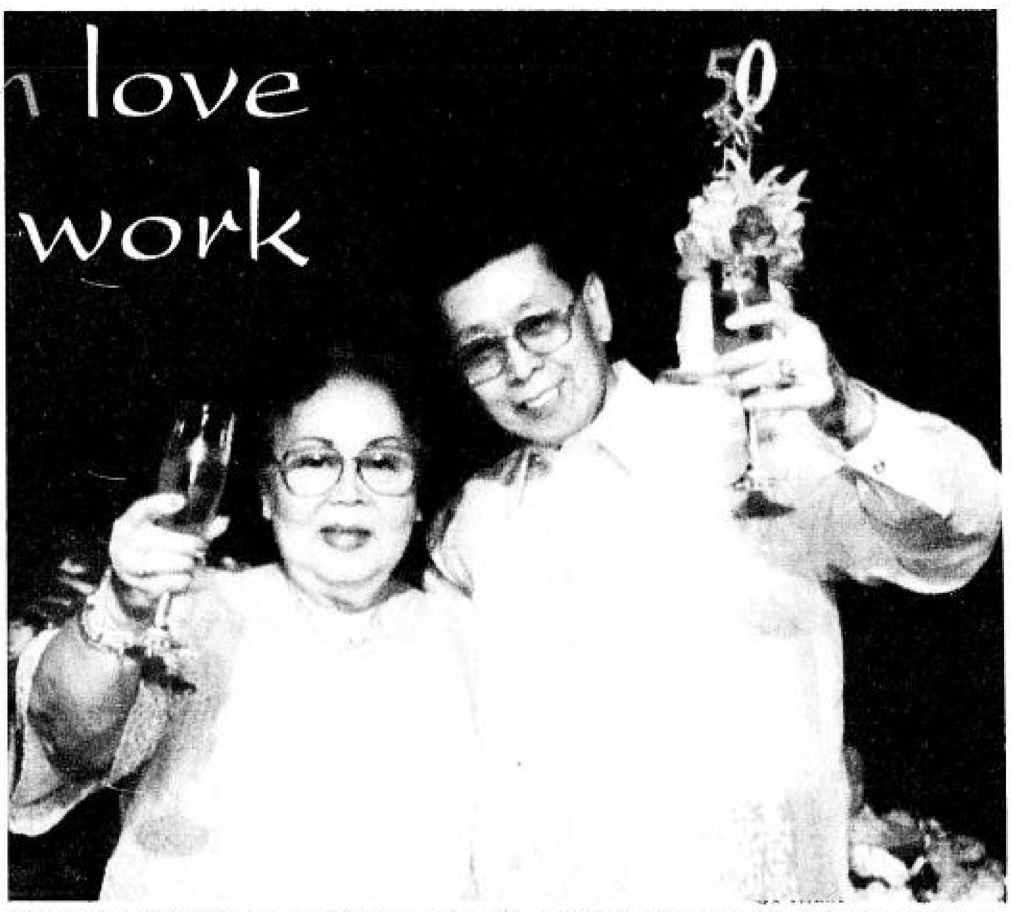
The shift in viewpoint is a fine distinction, but cosmic in result. When all prohibitions are down, there is nothing to hide because there is no veto. You do not feel possessed because you do not possess. The horizon has broadened and there are endless options. It makes life so beautiful. You love everyone, especially the one who makes it possible, and whom you love you do not hurt.

Maybe one of the purposes of marriage is not to make you lesser than you are but to make you realize you can be more than you are. Unconditional giving, of course, can only be initiated by the more enlightened partner, and this is usually the woman. (Ha! And you thought I was such a women's libber.) Maybe your husband never had a role model for giving. You just have to be it. Backing off during an argument even when you're right, for instance. Or holding one's tongue from giving all that good advice: "Don't eat that—can't you see it's dripping with fat?" "Why do we need a third cell phone when we're only two?" "What about sending all those old golf bags to Goodwill Industries?" A thoughtful act may not be returned immediately but it is noted, and will be reciprocated with your next giving, or the next next. From experience we know that one kindness fetches a hundredfold.

True freedom is earned by letting go—of control of your partner, of expectations, of anger and bad memories and grudges. Letting go is freeing your partner of your baggage, and in so doing finding your wings.

Don't wait till your 50th anniversary.

Partners in love and work


BLESSED LIFE. Mr. and Ms Felix Zepeda raise a toast to their wonderful life together.

LOVE and work may not always be the best of partners, but to Felix and Virginia Zepeda, both values fitted—and continue to fit—perfectly into their life together. Through sheer guts, hard work, commitment and a strong faith in God, the couple has built a life worthy of praise and emulation.

This was what Bishop Teodoro Bacani said when he officiated at the Zepedas' golden wedding anniversary on March 2 at the Grand Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula Hotel. In his homily, Bishop Bacani paid tribute to the couple's love for work and for each other. He said this immensely contributed to their success in business and in other activities as well.

Felix and Virginia, or Biñang to her friends and relatives, practically built a life out of the streets. Before they got married on March 2, 1952, Felix had sold wares from a stall on Tabora Street in busy Divisoria. Right across the street was Biñang's own stall, where she had sold her own goods. Their parents saw fit to match them, realizing at that time that for a couple to raise a family and succeed in life, they should not only be able to love each other but also know how to work and value their hard-earned money. The parents, of course, proved to be wise in their choice and decision.

From street stalls, Felix and Biñang persevered, turning even nights into days to achieve their dreams. Soon, they were able to build their own store, and another store, and then another, selling a variety of goods from textile to plastic products. Today, the "simple" house they bought in Gagalangin, Tondo, has become a "little" building that housed, at one time, a garments factory and a boutique.

They have been blessed with four children—Vicky, Tessie, Ramon and Felix Jr. All are married and now have families of their own. For Felix and Biñang, this is a crowning glory at the celebration of their 50th year of marriage. The couple can look back and lovingly tell each other they're worth all the labor and sacrifices they've made.

Love and work indeed do wonderful ways.

THE ZEPEDAS with Bishop Teodoro Bacani, who officiated at the golden wedding rites

Dance school marks anniversary with a classic

GOINGS ON

PINK Toes Center for the performing and musical arts celebrates its 15th anniversary at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines at 6 tonight.

Paula Ticzon Santos and Katrina Manahan are the lead dancers in the well-loved classic "Snowflakes" from "The Nutcracker."

Meanwhile, Pink Toes director Araceli Valera-Root announces that summer enrolment for its classes has already started. Classes in various courses like ballet, piano, voice, TKDO, street jazz and music movement will start April 11. Call 668-2118, 678-5330 or (0917)537-8709.

ARACELI Valera-Root, Pink Toes director

BAZAAR. A Summerfest Bazaar will be held April 12-13 at the Celebrity Sports Plaza, Capitol Hills, Diliman, QC. This will feature summer wear, gear, sports, hobbies, crafts and magazines. Call Mafe Estudillo at 922-2272, (0917) 913-6591 or fax 435-5727.

SEMINAR. The New Covenant Catholic Charismatic Community, under the spiritual directorship of Fr. Larry Faraon, OP, will be conducting a one-day Catholic Life in the Spirit Seminar (CLSS), 8 a.m.-6 p.m. tomorrow, at Angelicum Gym, Biak-na-Bato Street, QC (back of Sto. Domingo Church). Speakers include Ruben Reside, "Orientation"; Normie Garcia, "God's Love"; Fr. Acio Yap, "Salvation"; retired Gen. Huminado Aragon, "New Life"; Father Faraon, "Receiving God's Gift" and "Baptism in the Holy Spirit"; Pedring Pangilinan, "Growth"; and Fe Arciagal, "Transformation." Main celebrant is Fr. Anton Pascual. After the seminar, couple Wally and Fe Arcigal will conduct a healing session.

Call Tess Tan at 740-0165, Rence Dimaano, 419-6682; Gula Cable, 418-7110 or Masing, 928-5139. Admission and lunch are free.

CONFERENCE. A conference on "Science and Religion: Friends or Foes in the Task of Integral Development," will be held April 22-26, at the East Asian Pastoral Institute (EAPI), Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC.

William Stoeger, S.J., staff scientist of the Vatican Observatory and teacher at the University of Arizona, USA, will talk about "Divine Action in a Broken World." Romeo Intengan, S.J., M.D., will discuss "Are We Poor Because We Are Catholic?" Catherine Punzalan will give a lecture on "Science, Religion and Culture." Jose Mario Francisco, S.J., will tackle the topic "Perception of Science and Religion in Philippine Popular Culture." There will be workshops on the environment, use of natural resources in energy generation and mining, biotechnology, population growth and sustainable development, and the impact of information technology. The conference is a joint effort of EAPI, Manila Observatory, Ateneo de Manila University (School of Science and Engineering) and the University of Santo Tomas. It is sponsored by the Center for Theology and the Natural Science in Berkeley, CA., with the assistance of the John Templeton Foundation. Conference fee is P1,000 for local residents. Financial assistance is available. Call 426-5901.

CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES. The Divine Mercy "Say a Little Prayer" Movement has lined up activities to mark the Feast of Divine Mercy today. Bishop Florentino Cinense will officiate the 8 a.m. TV Mass on NBN Channel 4. Healing Masses will be held at 3 and 6 p.m. at the Divine Mercy Chapel and Center at 19 Spencer St., Cubao, QC. Priests will be available for confession starting 10 a.m. The Divine Mercy Channel, Channel 50 on Destiny Cable, will cover the event.

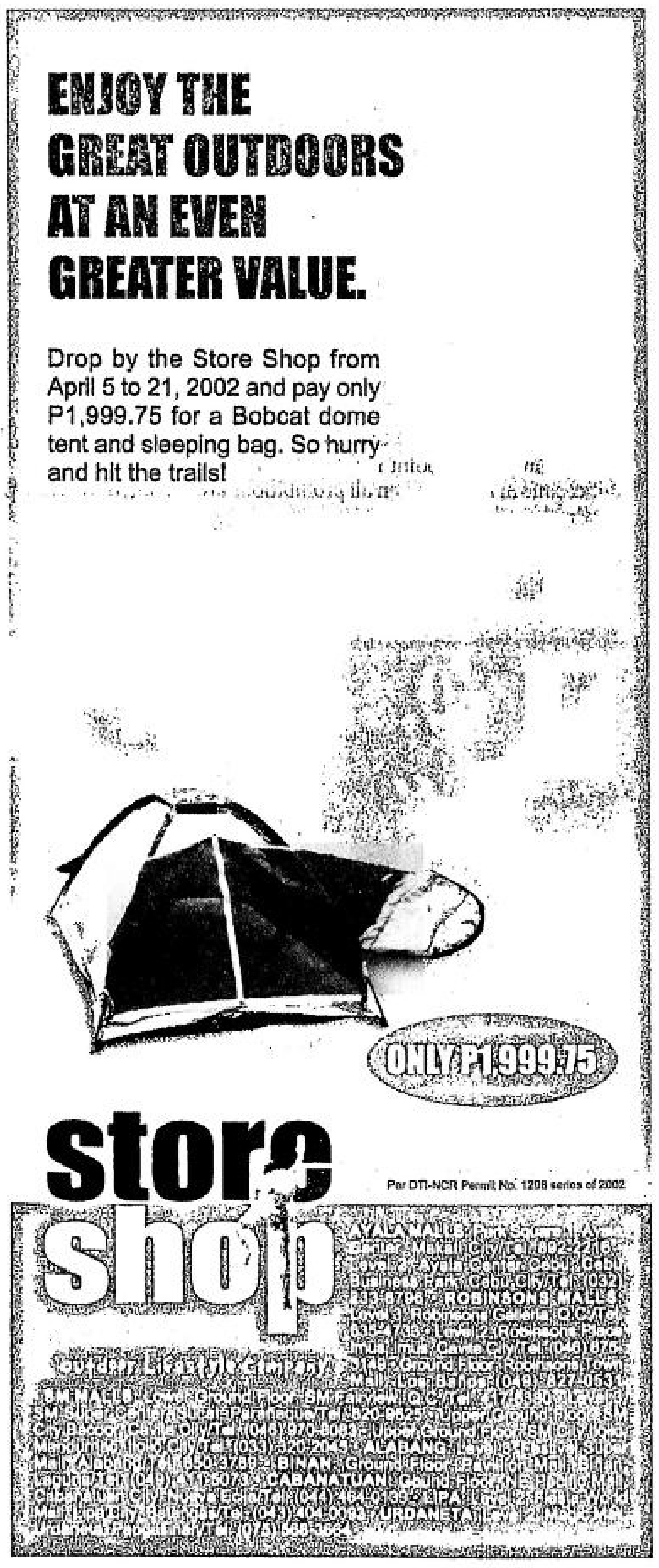
The Feast of Mercy is observed every first Sunday after Easter. It is the only feast of the Church, which is based on the demands of Jesus Christ in the 1930s as made known through the Polish nun, St. Faustina Kowalska.

PIANO RECITAL. A year-end piano recital by young pianists will be held at the Daughters of Virgin Mary Immaculate School auditorium in Ayala, Alabang Village today.
Piano professor Minerva M. Reyes said plaques, trophies and certificates of promotion would be awarded to the students after the presentation.

The student pianists are Isabel Jacinta D. Castillo, Leslie Marie P. Chew, Michaela Marie Daniella E. de Asis, Ricardo Jose Walter E. de Asis, Mia Angelica B. Ibarra, Mia Francesca B. Ibarra, Iris Anne C. Manalo, Renee Ysabel S. Ong, Roanne Marie S. Ong, Danica Ruth I. Pedracio, Dan Wesley I. Pedracio, Ma. Isabel S. Ong, Roanne Marie S. Ong, Ma. Isabel Valentina P. Plaza, Paula Ofelia P. Plaza, Ayra V. Reyes, Pauline Grace R. Rudi, Hope Micah R. Rudi and Kristine Mae C. Manalo.

BALLROOM DANCING. Makati Shangri-La's Conway's Bar opens its doors to Manila's ballroom dancing set 7 p.m.-2 a.m. every Monday. Becky Garcia, TV's "dancing queen" and leading promoter of competitive ballroom dancing in the country, will host the Monday night attraction. Professional male and female dance instructors will be at Conway's during the weekly event. Entrance fee is P500+ and is inclusive of two complimentary standard drinks. Call 813-8888 local 7588 or 840-0884.

HAVEN FOR CHILDREN
The Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI) is building the Haven for Children complex in Muntinlupa City to shelter and rehabilitate street children. This was announced by Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia and president-chair of CSFI, during the foundation's first general assembly recently. She told the assembly, "2002 is the year that will bring out the best in us." CSFI is also expanding the Haven (National Center for Women), a sanctuary for abused women, in Alabang. The center has already 15 regional satellite branches. The foundation will work with wives of the officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police on a nationwide information campaign on cleanliness and environment preservation.



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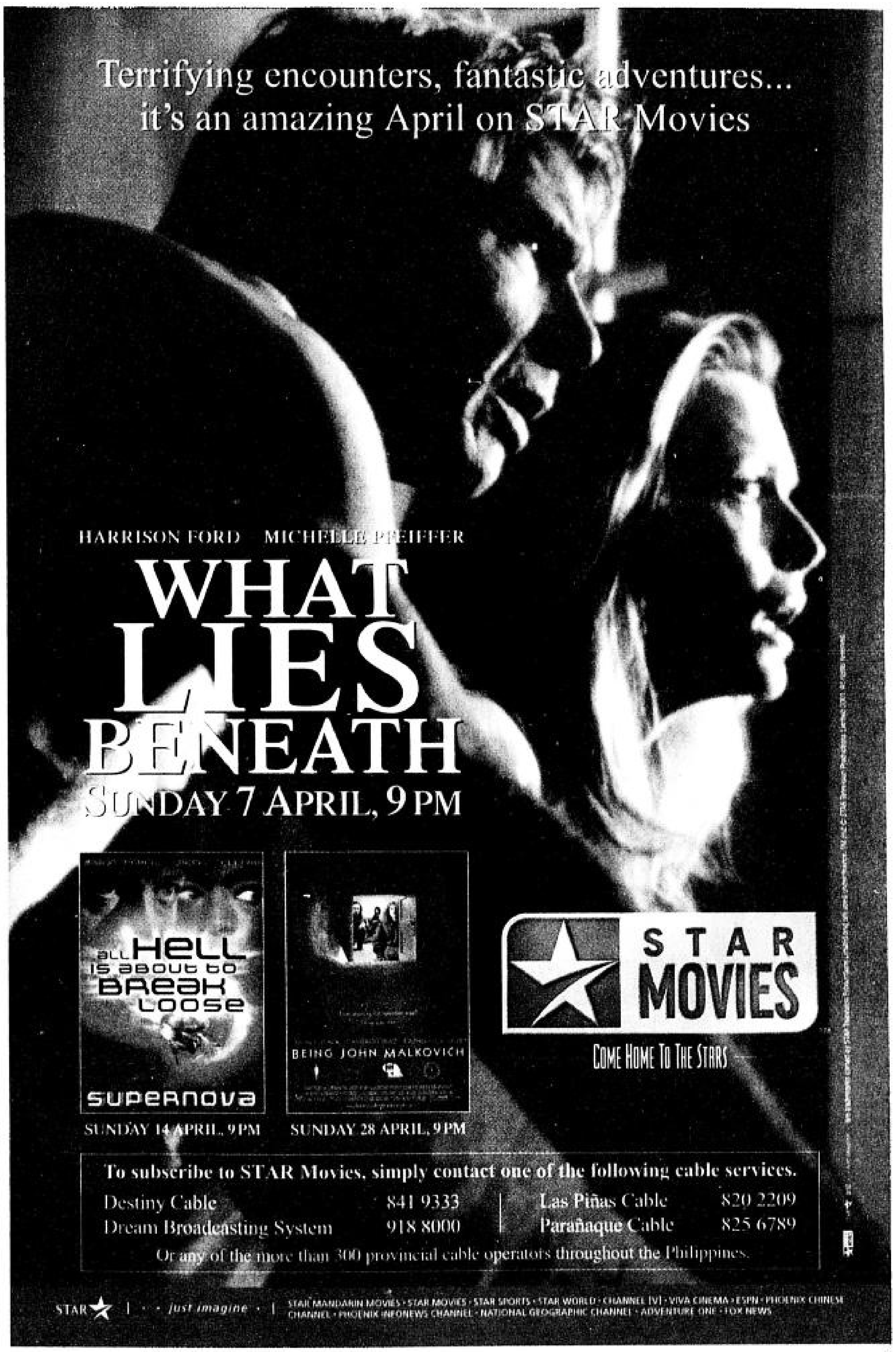

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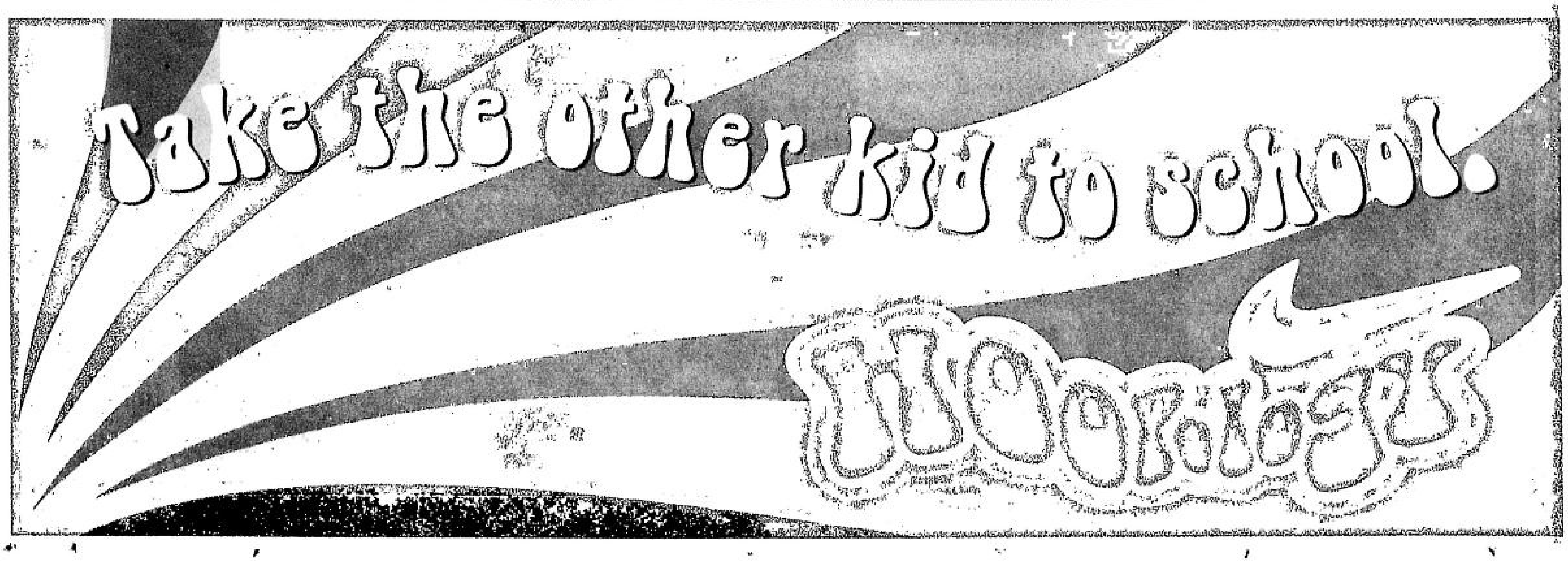


Take the other kid to school.

WITH SECONDARY sponsors (first row, from left) Lala Castillo, QC Rep. Maite Defensor, Weewee Ramos Sullano, Mitos Piega, Bettina Aboitiz (proxy for President Macapagal), Marikina Mayor Marides Carlos Fernando, Tess Castro and Carol Risos; (second row, from left) Ricky Lo, Hermie Aquino, Bill Cowper, Jarlath Lynch, Dr. Rainy Abad and proxy for QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte

THE FREEMANS pose with "Puking-king" and their entourage, from left, Eiselle, Gemma, Ceia, Veronique, Els, Evie, Sean André, Brian, Chuck and Reggie

One wrong (number) makes a right

By Alex Y. Vergara

The couple's paths crossed when Daphne tried to call a friend and a stranger answered

THEIR love story began two years ago with a wayward call. A classic case of "wrong number" turned out to be just the right thing for Louie Freeman and Daphne Cowper.

The two were wed in Catholic rites on Valentine's Day at the Archbishop's Palace in Mandaluyong City. A dinner reception hosted by the bride's parents, John and Betsy, followed at the Edsa Shangri-La's Mactan ballroom. Louie's parents, actors Dante Rivero and Elizabeth Oropesa, were unable to attend their son's wedding.

The lovely Daphne—a former commercial model, part-time writer and full-time cat lover—wore an Indian-inspired, two-piece lilac gown by Gener Gozum. The boyish Louie gamely indulged his sweetheart's South Asian fantasy by wearing a charcoal gray Nehru jacket and matching pair of pants.

"I'm not really that excited about the ceremony," said Daphne a few days before their altar date. "I'm excited because I'll be marrying my best friend."

Before that errant call, Daphne probably wouldn't have given the shy Louie a second glance. Not that she was snobbish. The independent-minded young woman simply relished her solitude and the company of her 30 or so cats. Besides, she was seeing someone else then.

The call had a different effect, however, on then loveless Louie. "I was instantly charmed by her voice," he said. "I already felt that she was a warm, lovely person."

His hunch proved right. When the two finally met a month later at a popular nightspot on Katipunan Avenue, Louie was floored by what he saw. "She was everything I imagined her to be and more." But that's getting ahead of our story.

The couple's paths crossed when Daphne responded to a paged message from a friend. "She asked me to call her," she said, "but when I dialed the number on the pager, a stranger answered the phone."

Daphne tried calling again but the same person answered. The stranger, who turned out to be Louie, mustered enough courage to ask Daphne her number. Of course, she didn't give it to him! Not immediately, anyway.

"I told him to wait for my call," said Daphne. And Louie did, staying up until midnight, the time Daphne promised to call again. "I was usually free by then."

Although she didn't share his excitement, Daphne soon found in Louie an engaging phone pal. The two talked on the phone several times before they finally agreed to meet. Daphne played safe by bringing a chaperone.

"It was more out of curiosity that I agreed to meet him," she said. "He wasn't exactly my type, but Louie eventually grew on me. I soon discovered his many endearing qualities."

When he learned, for instance, that Daphne was having a hard time writing since she didn't have a computer, Louie offered to give his old unit to her. He boosted his stock further when Daphne learned that he was also an animal lover.

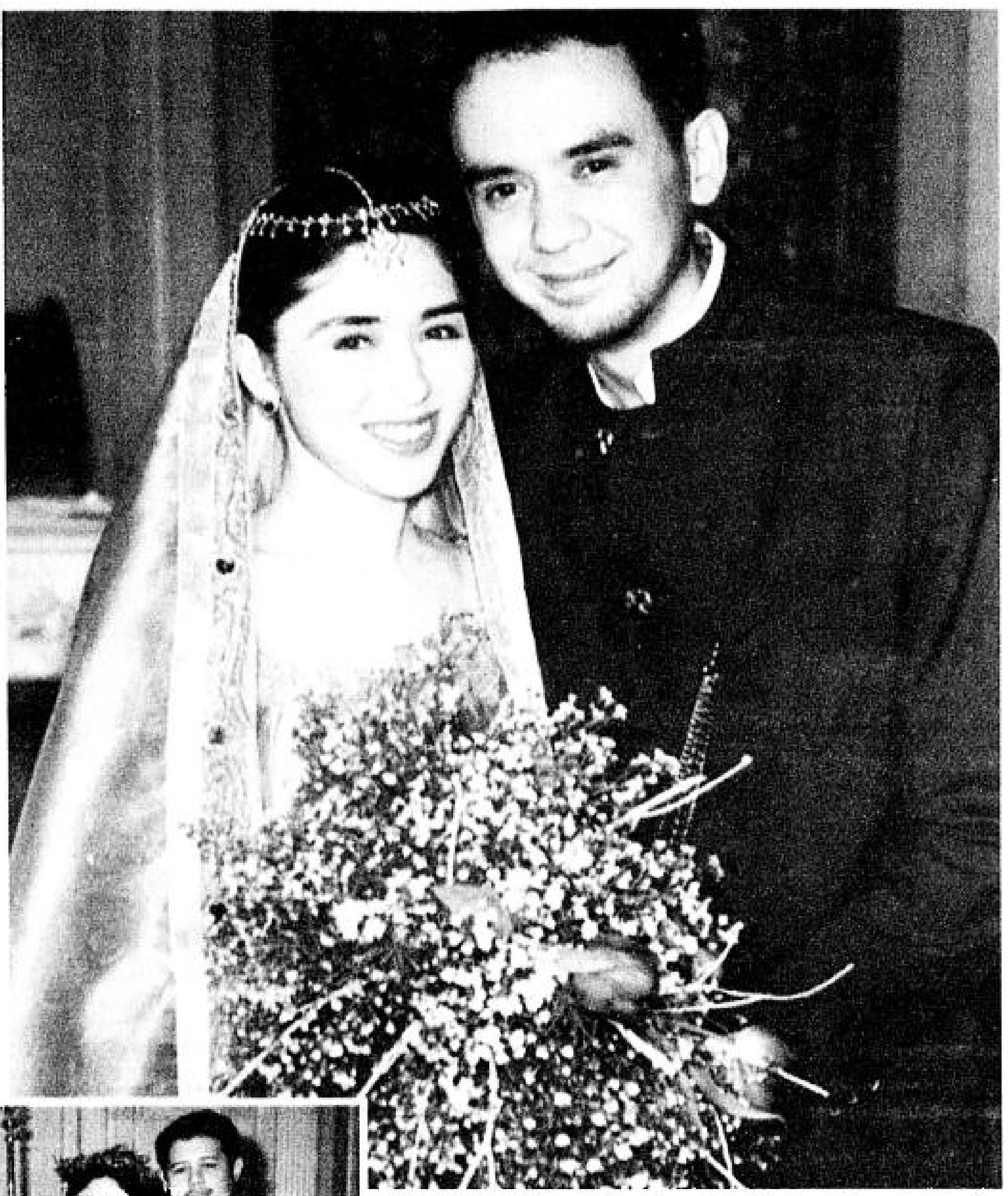
"He shares my concern for cats, especially stray cats," she said. "I would often pick up and nurse them back to health. Louie also does the same. He used to hear me scream at them [cats] while on the phone whenever they did their thing in my room."

Their friendship blossomed into love two months after the accidental phone call. Louie popped the question sometime last year.

The couple's shared love of cats was evident during the wedding. "Puking-king," one of the couple's feline friends, was part of the entourage dressed as one of the bridesmaids. While the bride wore lilac, the rest of Daphne's bridesmaids and secondary sponsors wore white. Like nymphs from an enchanted forest, they wore crowns of baby's breath.

"Daphne is the first woman I pledged my love to," said Louie, who was raised by his maternal grandparents. "I've never felt so much freedom (as) now that I'm marrying her." The former phone pals are now soul mates for life.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



PHONE pals-turned-soul mates Daphne Cowper and Louie Freeman

THE COUPLE with the bride's family, from left, brother Sean André, father John, mother Betsy, sister Veronique, Liam and Brian Gordon

THE FREEMANS, Louie and Daphne, get an eclectic reception at the Edsa Shangri-La.

Shower of blooms for a romantic couple

From page E8

ballroom decorated with roses in keeping with the garden theme of the wedding. Well-wishers were Ali's friends from Philam Plans, colleagues and students from Ateneo Judo Association and Noreen's high school friends from La Salle Zobel. Various friends from media were present, as well as members of Manila Overseas Press Club and Philconsa.

Hosts during the reception were secondary sponsor Ronald Bautista and bride's friend Issa Alfonso. During dinner, entertainment was provided by friends and family members. The groom's younger sister Abi Sulit sang "Ikaw" accompanied by Da Capo. Jan Nieto, one of Ali's judo students, serenaded the couple with his rendition of "Be My Lady." Issa Alfonso also sang "Burn." Family friend Tinee Lagman dished out "Inseparable."

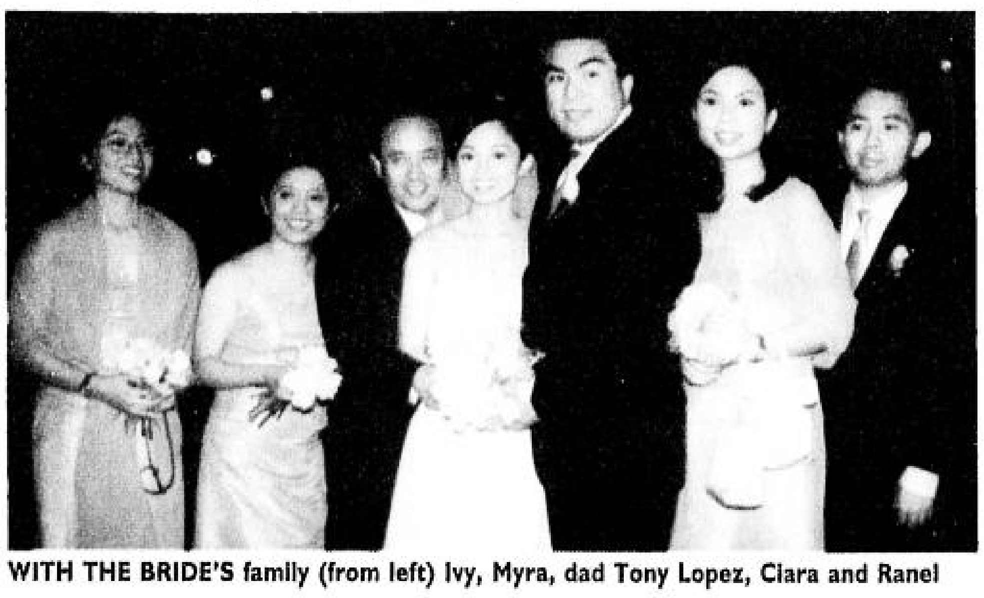
Surprise for the evening was a number from the groom, who serenaded his bride with a song he had written for her. Pacoy Aniang provided guitar accompaniment.

A video montage of the couple prepared by the bride's sister Myra was also shown during the reception. Father of the bride Tony gave a toast to the couple as well as the groom's brother and best man TJ.

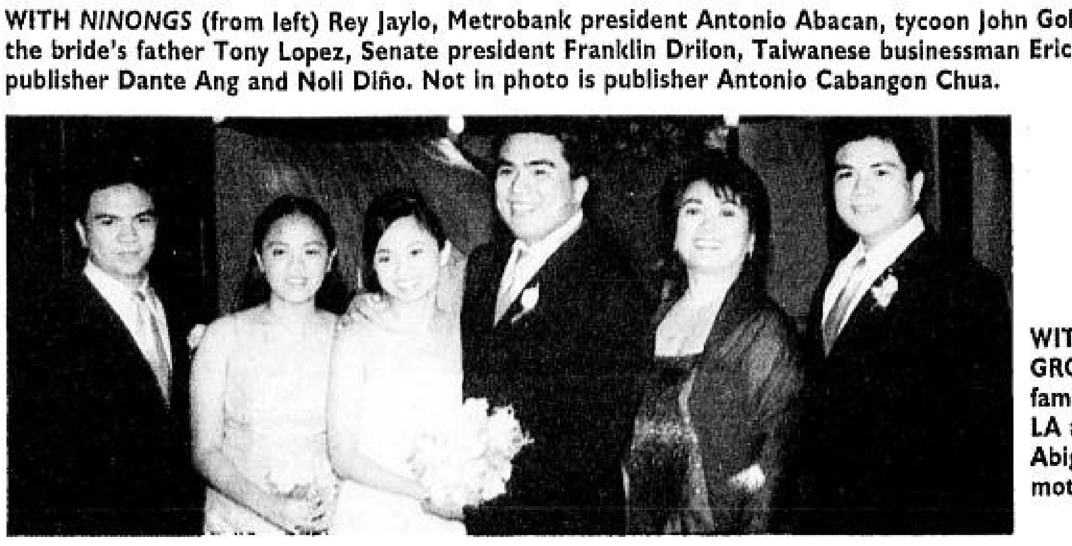
The wedding was truly memorable and sentimental.

For their honeymoon, the couple hied off to Lagen Island in El Nido Palawan.

WITH *NINONGS* (from left) Rey Jaylo, Metrobank president Antonio Abacan, tycoon John Gokongwei Jr., the bride's father Tony Lopez, Senate president Franklin Drilon, Taiwanese businessman Eric Liang, publisher Dante Ang and Noli Diño. Not in photo is publisher Antonio Cabangon Chua.



WITH THE BRIDE'S family (from left) Ivy, Myra, dad Tony Lopez, Clara and Ranel



WITH THE GROOM'S family, brothers LA and TJ, sister Abigail and mother Arsenia

Marilao church is now the national shrine of Divine Mercy

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

ELEVEN years ago when Fr. Vic Robles celebrated the feast of the Divine Mercy on April 6, 1991 at the St. Michael Church in Marilao, little did he know that he would be building a shrine of the Divine Mercy to which thousands of people would come for healing and spiritual renewal.

God guided him to Sta. Rosa I, a barrio of Marilao, where he built what is now a shrine with Stations of the Cross on the vast land behind the church and the chapel of Our Lady of Fatima. The chapel of St. Joseph will be constructed soon.

Building the shrine was not easy. It took many years, but God was with Father Vic all the way. There was an incident when he needed money badly to pay workers and buy materials. Out of the blue, a lady arrived at the shrine and handed him an envelope, which contained a check worth P1 million.

Testimonies on miraculous healings and even spiritual conversion were told during Mass. The fame of the shrine spread.

When my friend Dulce Reyes of People's Journal and I visited Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona in Malolos, Bulacan, last Holy Thursday, he reminded us that the feast of the Divine Mercy is today and that many people would flock to Sta. Rosa.

The CBCP has recently approved the dedication of the church as the National Shrine of Divine Mercy and the celebration will be held in October.

At the shrine in Marilao, novena Masses were held March 29 to April 6 at 6 p.m. The fiesta Mass today is at 5:30 a.m. and will be celebrated by Bishop Tirona. The other schedules are 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. followed by 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Assisting Father Robles is Fr. Angelito Santiago.

St. Anne Shrine in Hagonoy

In the afternoon of Holy Thursday, Bishop Tirona himself drove Dulce and myself to Hagonoy to visit the national shrine of St. Anne, mother of Mama Mary. It is a very old church with Msgr. Macario Manahan as parish priest and Fr. Nap Baltazar as his assistant.

We asked for three favors, which is a custom when visiting churches for the first time. The miraculous images of St. Anne and the young Mary were beautiful. I remember that when I was very sick in 1981 I would pray the miraculous prayer to St. Anne for the sick which was given to me by my friend Gina Camus. Of course, St. Anne helped me, so I am devoted to her to this day.

We left the shrine and proceeded to Barasoain Church, which is dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Msgr. Flint Capiral and his assistant, Fr. Boy Cruz, celebrated the Mass and performed the "Washing of the Feet."

Dulce and I felt very good that we were observing Holy Thursday in the province. Then we dropped by the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception where the Bishop and priests celebrated Mass in the evening.

Driving back to Manila afterward, we told ourselves how lucky we were to be welcomed in this beautiful town of Malolos by no less than the Bishop himself.

Msgr. Macario Manahan and Fr. Rodolfo "Boy" Cruz undertook the awesome task of writing "Hagonoy sa Taon ng Hubileo 2000." It is a "must read" if only for the town natives, Bulakeños and historians who are fascinated by the origin of Hagonoy and the evangelization of the people during the Spanish time. The shrine of St. Anne is a beautiful site for a pilgrimage. Her image is much larger than the one in Sta. Ana Church in Manila.

'Piso-piso bawat Katoliko'

Two years ago, I wrote about the parish of Saints Peter and Paul in barrio Calungusan in Orion, Bataan. The people are blessed with an indefatigable priest who does not give up. Fr. Jun Villanueva began with nothing except his faith that God will provide and He did.

Today, Father Jun is happy to report that the people themselves are building their church by dropping *piso-piso* every day. The parishioners are mostly fishermen and farmers. According to Father Jun, even the jeepney and tricycle drivers give a peso a day. Isn't that something?

Father Jun says: "After almost two years, we were able to gather about P4 million so we were able to start the construction. Although we still need another P4 million to finish the church, we are happy because everyone has his share."

If you are interested in Father Jun's tape of songs, "Sa Piling Mo," you can write him to order at Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Calungusan, Orion, Bataan 02102.

Villa Domingo Renewal Center

The Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco will bless the Villa Domingo Renewal Center on April 8 at 8:30 a.m. in Maddarulug, a barrio of Solana town, which you pass if you're going to Piat, Cagayan. Named after Archbishop Emeritus Domingo, the center will be the site of the first seminar on the roles of the different commissions running the various structures of the archdiocese.

Best wishes Archbishop Talamayan

April 10 is the 16th anniversary of Cagayan Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan as archbishop and also the 92nd anniversary of the archdiocese. On that day, seminarian Jose Aggabao of Enrile, Cagayan will be ordained deacon.

Seminarian needs help

Roque de la Peña needs help to be able to continue his studies at the St. Camillus College Seminary. He wants to become a priest so he can serve the poor and sick members of the church. You can write to him at the St. Camillus College Seminary, 17 Apitong St., Marikina Heights 1800 Marikina City.

New deacons

The Order of the Servants of Mary have new deacons: Allan Ma. Satur, Nady Maria Meren and Roger Ma. Tondo. They were ordained April 6 by Bishop Jesse Mercado at the Church of St. Peregrine Laziosi in Tunasan, Muntinlupa.

Congratulations, Christian

A young reader of mine, Christian Rillera, who is in second year college, is a consistent honor student. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

Pauline's sale

The Pauline's Communication Center is holding a first anniversary sale. Pauline products are available at a 60-percent discount. The sale is ongoing until April 25. For more info, please call Sister Mercy or Sister Josephine at 831-6420/1771. Pauline's Center is located on FB Harrison Avenue, near the Philippine School of the Deaf and Blind.

An adoration chapel at Pauline's Center is now open on Mondays. It is a place for deep prayer and meditation.

Escriva's canonization

The latest I heard is that at least 200 people have signed up in various travel agencies to go to Rome for the canonization of Blessed Josemaria Escriva.

Raymond Javellana of Travel and Parcel Corner is arranging the itinerary of some Opus Dei members and devotees of Escriva. From Rome, pilgrims can proceed to Lourdes, France, or Florence and Assisi or to Pamplona and Madrid. Those interested can call Raymond at 826-1408/7563.

FR. Vic Robles, rector of the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy, with St. Joseph

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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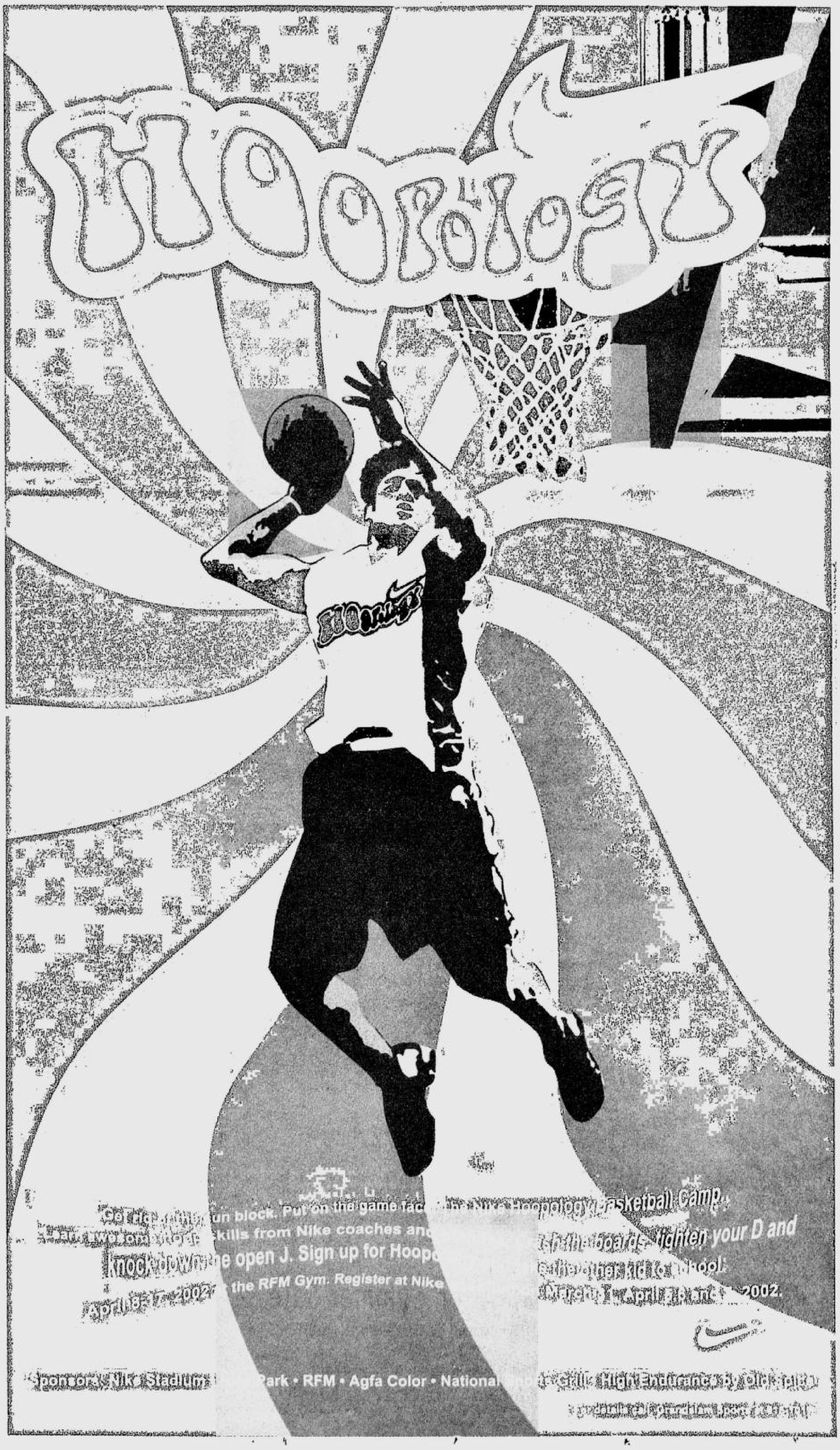

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Shower of blooms for a romantic couple

WITH *NINANGS* Connie Labos, Menchu Concepcion, Baby Angara, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Alicia Arroyo, Gina de Venecia, Mercedes Gotianun, Teresita Sy-Coson and Petty Rodriguez

ROMANCE was in the air when Alexander Sulit and Noreen Lopez exchanged vows last Feb. 2. Ali is the son of Arsenia Sulit and Noreen is the daughter of newsman and Graphic publisher and editorial director Tony Lopez.

Ali and Noreen met in 1992 and spent their college years at the Ateneo de Manila University. Ali and Noreen graduated in 1996 with a degree in AB Humanities and AB Interdisciplinary Studies, respectively. Noreen then moved to California and became a sales rep for AAA Insurance while Ali stayed in the country. He is the regional manager for Philam Plans and program director for judo at the Ateneo. He was heavyweight national judo champion for four years. The two reunited after five years.

THE NEWLYWEDS. Noreen Lopez and Alexander Sulit

Ali was smitten by Noreen's charm, and she by his sweet and caring ways, dependability and hardworking nature. Their first date was at the Loyola Gym. He had 60 candles lighted throughout the place. On New Year's Eve 2001, he proposed to her at the top of the Century Park Hotel.

The garden poolside of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila was transformed into an outdoor chapel for the wedding ceremony. Rose petals were strewn along the aisle. A gazebo decked with tulle and flowers served as the stage. The scent of roses and tulips and peach blossom incense filled the air.

Noreen wore an ensemble by Edwin Tan, who also designed the silver dresses of the bridesmaids and suits of the groomsmen. All floral arrangements were also created by the designer.

The ceremony was officiated by Rev. John Charles Natividad. The *ninongs* were Senate president Franklin Drilon, Dante Ang, Noli Diño, banker Antonio Abacan, Col. Antonio Cabangon Chua, Taiwan businessman Eric Liang, tycoon John Gokongwei, Angelo Parisi represented by Capt. Reynaldo Jaylo, and Juan Galang.

The *ninangs* were led by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who was represented by Alicia Arroyo, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Gina de Venecia, Gloria Angara, tycoons Teresita Sy-Coson and Mercedes Gotianun, Carmencita Concepcion, Petty Rodriguez and Consuelo Labos. Three weeks after the wedding, President Arroyo tendered a dinner for the Lopez family at Malacañang.

Secondary sponsors were the couple's friends Philip Manalaysay and Aimee Dabu, candle; Jace de Veyra and Claire Azarcon, veil; Ronald Bautista and Debbie Galang, cord.

The groomsmen were LA Sulit, Ranel Lopez, Jong dela Calzada and best man was TJ Sulit. The bridesmaids were Myra Lopez, Abi Sulit and Ivy Lopez Cabaltica and maid of honor, Ciara Lopez.

All were teary-eyed as Ali and Noreen exchanged vows. The string quintet of Da Capo Instruments serenaded guests during the ceremony. Guests included former President Fidel V. Ramos, Speaker Jose de Venecia, tycoons Raul Concepcion and Jose Concepcion, JG Summit chair James Go, Philamlife chair Jose Cuisia, Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino and Philippine Star publisher Max Soliven.

After the ceremony, Ali and Noreen released the doves in the garden. The guests then showered the newlyweds with bubbles as they proceeded to the Grand Ballroom for the reception.

Two hundred guests filled the

SHOWER/ p.E6

TERESITA Sy-Coson, former President Fidel Ramos, Gina de Venecia and Mr. and Ms Exequiel Garcia

THE COUPLE with (standing, from left) Raul Concepcion, Petty Rodriguez, Andrew and Mercedes Gotianun; (seated) Menchu Concepcion, Noli Diño and John and Elizabeth Gokongwei

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Cartier's chameleon watch, rice dishes, new Greenbelt and Rico Yan mania

THE CARTIER ROADSTER. It has an interchangeable strap and bracelet tailored to the personality of the wearer. Available at Cartier boutiques

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE WATCH—the Cartier Roadster. This is the watch of the season that every hip and trendy male is lusting for. The Cartier Roadster (love the name) is on everyone's wish list. In Paris and New York, there is a waiting list for this watch. So what's so special about it, besides the fact that it's made by Cartier? Plenty. It's inspired by an automobile and does not look like other Cartiers. It has a dual personality, which means you can change the bracelet from sporty to formal, depending on the personality of the wearer. It comes in black calfskin, alligator strap or steel bracelet. It also has a gold version with interchangeable strap. It's modern, functional and, did I say beautiful? The Cartier Roadster will be available in all Cartier boutiques this month.

Must-go-to food festival—Kitchen's Rice Festival. I am the type of person who has to have a certain type of food almost every day. So I have to always order food from Kitchen's Rice Festival at its Greenbelt or SM Megastrip branches. The establishment caters to people who love rice. And who is the Pinoy who does not love rice?

Try their Salmon Says, which is salmon head cooked in *misu* with fresh vegetables. It's simply to die for. Other must-try items: Too Good It's True (salmon belly cooked like *bistek* Tagalog); Seafood Diet (seafood in coconut milk and spicy *sili*); and "Shawshank Redemption" (Osso Bucco in peppercorn sauce). I am getting hungry already just writing this!

Here's a piece of advice when eating all these delicious delights. Make sure you ask for their spice rack, which includes garlic chips, soy sauce and chili and mix them. Add to your meal and voila! instant fiesta.

Improved Greenbelt. The renovation of Greenbelt is in its finishing touches stage. Since I live a stone's throw away from it, I am excited about the opening. I am sure that this will be the place to shop and dine in, to see and be seen. It is said the new mall will have a soft opening next month. Another thing I am glad about is they are taking out the rotunda near the New World Hotel. As I wrote months back, the rotunda is a traffic nightmare. It's good Ayala Land is remedying the problem.

I can't get through April without... trying Rokoko, the new Japanese restaurant in Malate (where Matina used to be), which I hear is very good... the newly lit streets of Malate which are a welcome

CARTIER'S/ p.F4

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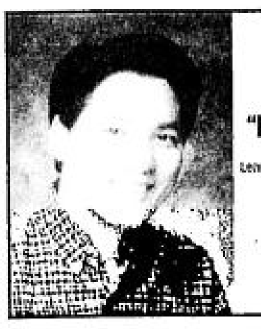

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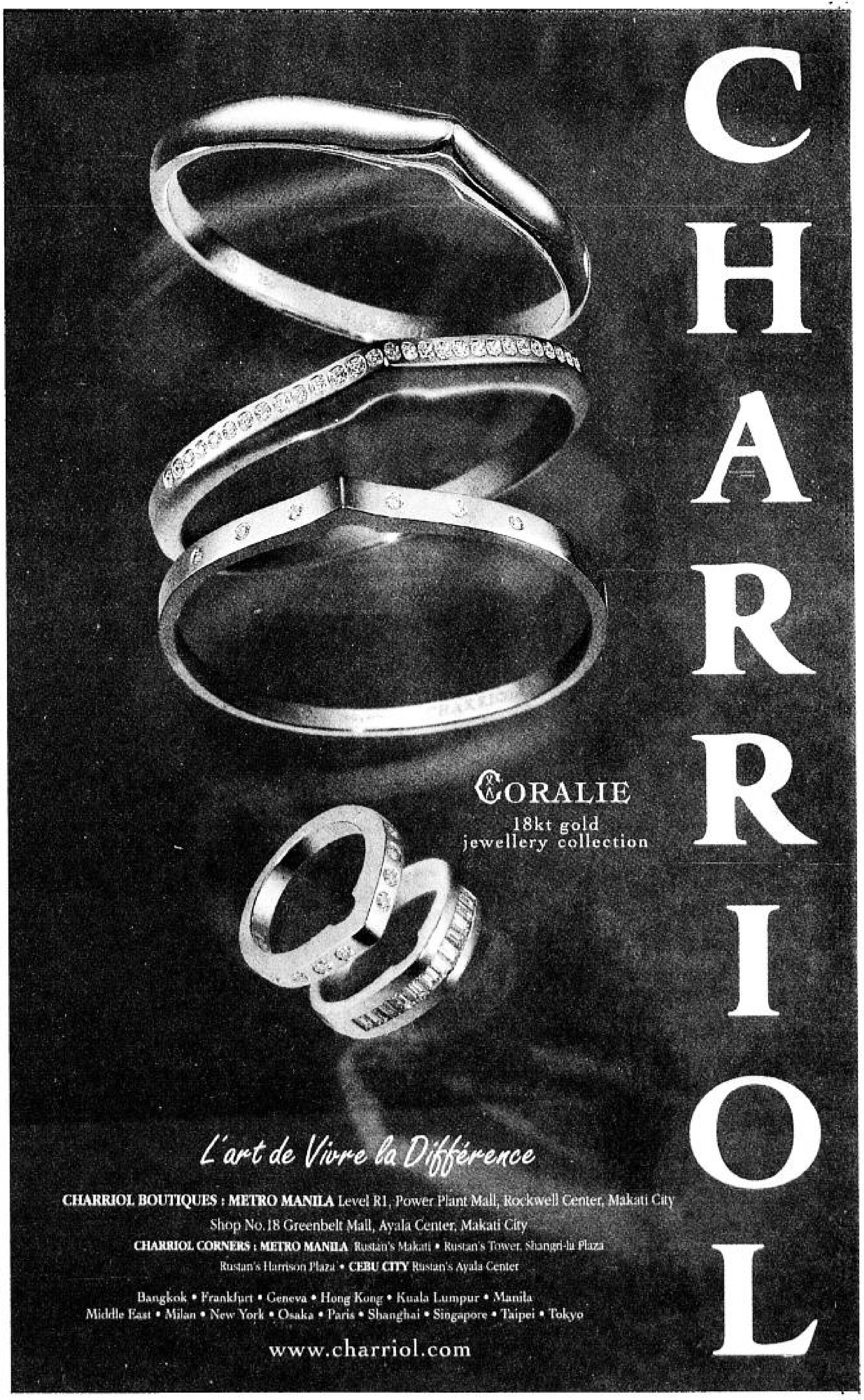

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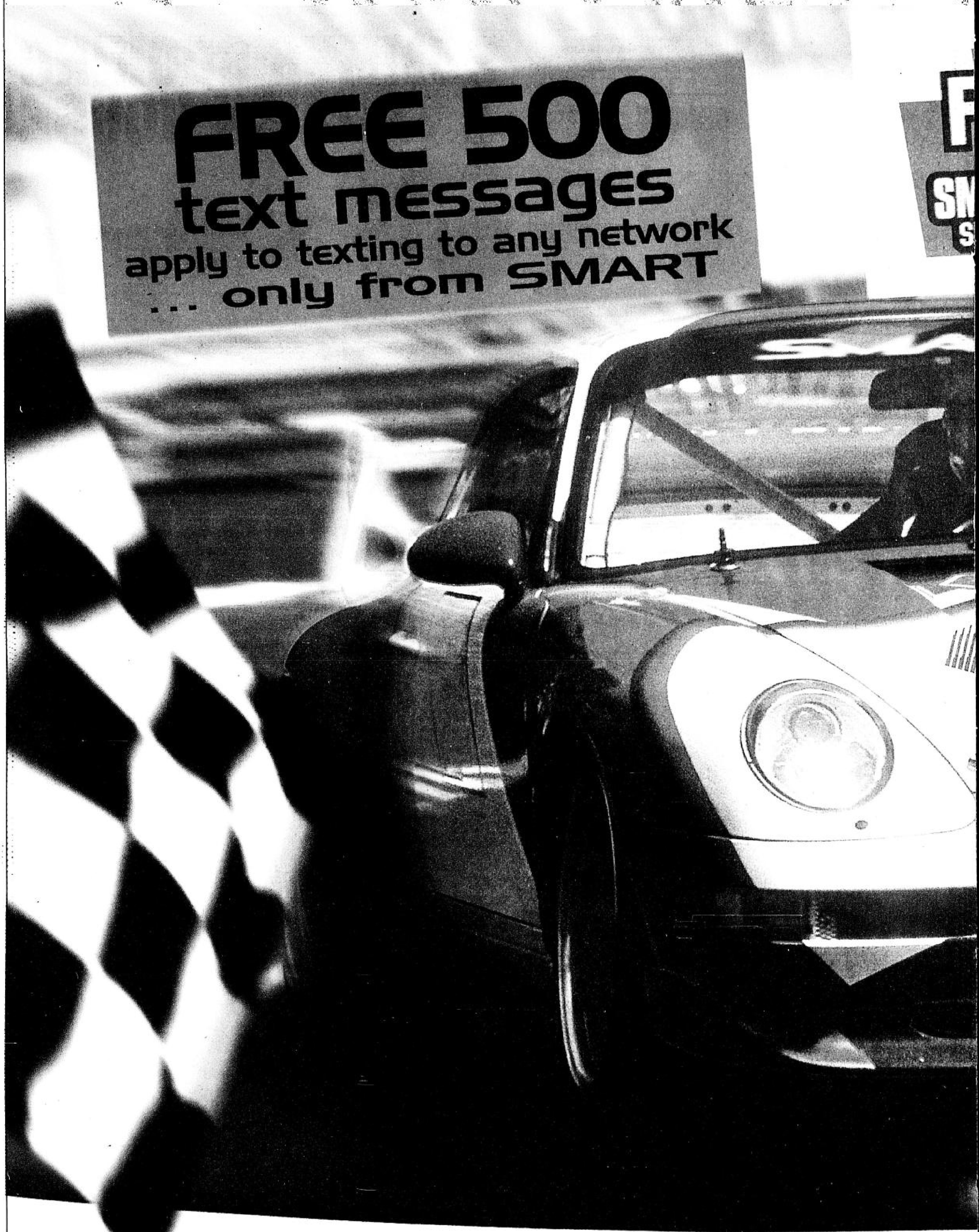

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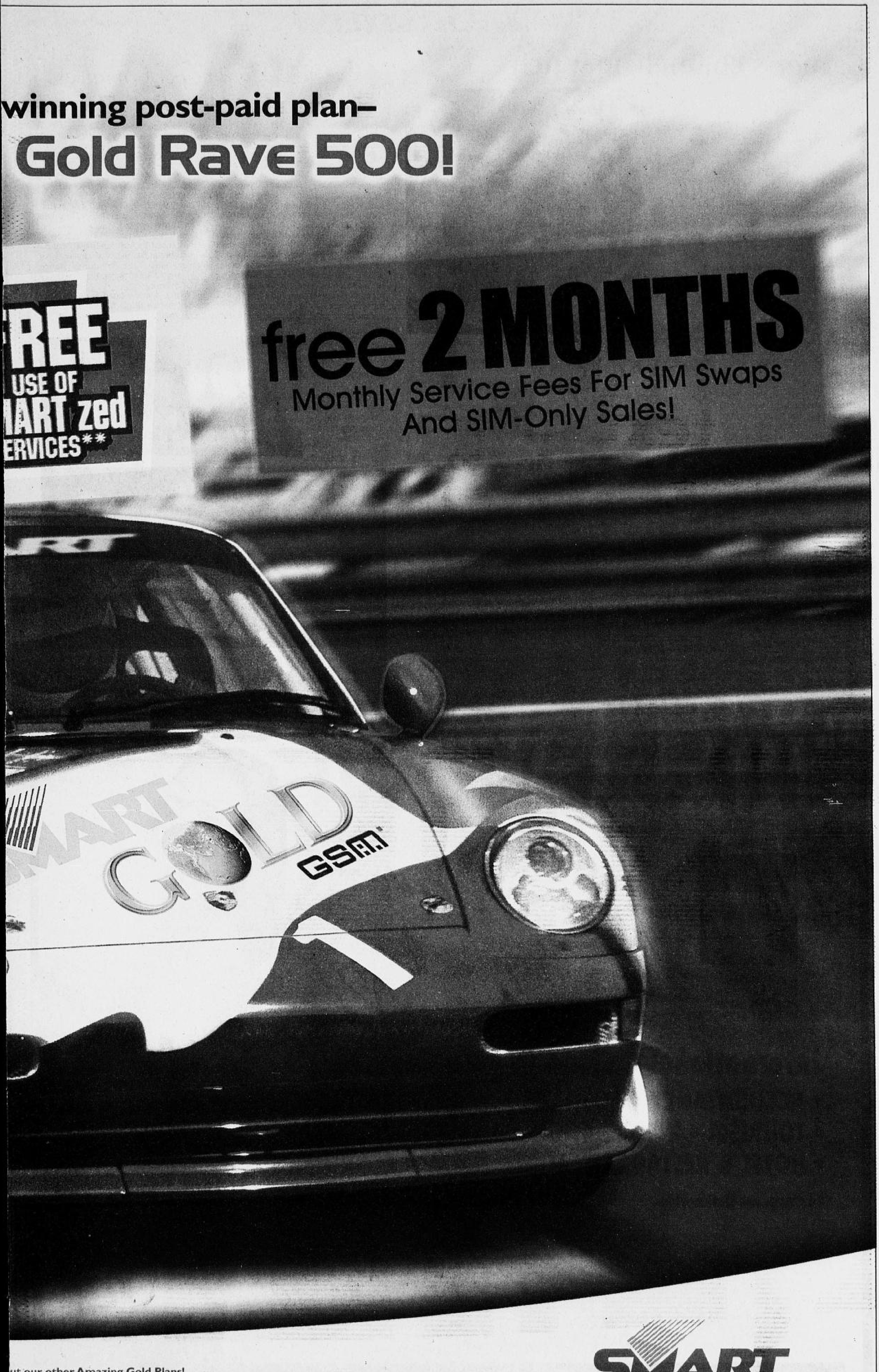

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Cartier's chameleon watch . . .

From page F1

sight especially since the reported cases of car theft and mauling are tarnishing the reputation of Malate... catching the new shows on Channel E and AXN... going to Homme et Femme and seeing their latest collections, especially the Hedi Slimane collection for Dior... catching the **Bencab** exhibit that starts on April 10 at the Luz Gallery... following the never-ending saga of deposed **President Joseph Estrada**... reading Vanity Fair's Hollywood issue... watching the **Lani Misalucha** concert at Greenbelt's Onstage (she is absolutely marvelous and my favorite singer!) ...confirming the rumor that **Ricky Martin** will be performing in Manila for three nights in June... catching two movies that I believe will be fantastic, "Panic Room" with **Jodie Foster** and "Spiderman" with **Tobey Maguire**.

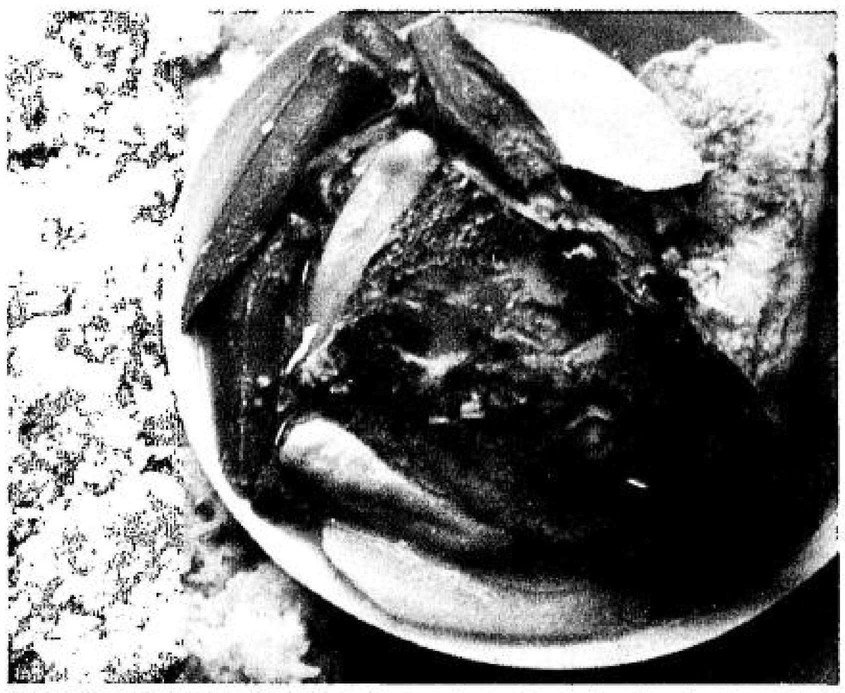
Role model laid to rest. Since the Easter break I have been following the untimely passing of **Rico Yan**. I never had the privilege of meeting Rico, but I saw him on some occasions with Rep. **Miguel Zubiri** and **Archie Rodriguez**, his partners at Tequila Joe's. It's sad whenever someone that young passes away. I can't help but think of the dreams and passions that will never be realized.

There have been numerous show-biz deaths but none in recent memory has gripped the show-biz industry and the Filipino nation like Rico's death. I guess the **Nida Blanca** case would come close, but it was a different case. Some journalists and jaded personalities are questioning why so much media attention has been given someone who did not even reach superstar status. Even Constance (yes, she's still around) told me, "My goodness, when you grieve, shouldn't it be private? Look at the royal family."

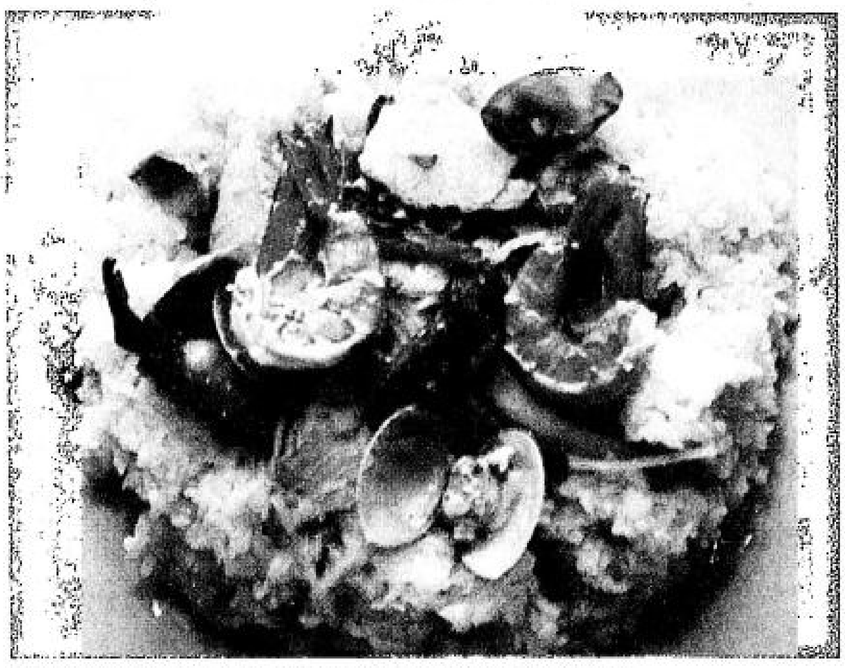
In the days leading up to his burial, I would call my good friend **Mons Tantoco** and ask if she was watching TV. We were glued to our TV sets and crying, especially when that song, "Warrior is a Child," was played. Rico was a great loss, but it is hoped other young actors will take lessons from his exemplary life. He used his position in life to make a difference, without making such a big fuss about it. In a jaded and cynical world, he represented honesty and innocence.

There were interesting sidelights to the media coverage of the wake. One footage showed **Gretchen Barretto** hugging sister **Claudine**, Rico's ex, with her Bvlgari watch upstaging everyone. That was a reality check! During the necrological service broadcast by Channel 2, I was shocked when all of a sudden, the coverage was broken by a Dunkin' Donuts commercial and a string of other commercials that went on and on. For chrissake, it's a wake, not a wedding!

E-mail the author at asd_world @hotmail.com



KITCHEN'S Rice Festival. Mouth-watering salmon head cooked in *misu*.



SEAFOOD DIET. Seafood in coconut milk and spicy *sili*

New venue for live performances opens in Cebu

THEATER One, SM City Cebu's new venue for live performances, was formally launched recently with musical entertainment from some of the country's top artists.

Performers were "Miss Saigon" divas Jenine Desiderio, Isay Alvarez and Jinky Llamanzares; versatile singer-TV personality Pinky Marquez; tenor Nolyn Cabahug; and West End performing star Robert Seña. Cebu's own Peace Philharmonic Orchestra (PPPO) was also featured.

The newly reformatted theater, which seats 764 persons, is ideal for stage plays and live performances. It has state-of-the-art lighting, a Dolby Digital Sound System, 386-sq m stage area, spacious dressing rooms, a counterweight fly system for props and stage settings, and a special area for sound and lighting equipment.

Audiences get a fully carpeted theater with plush seats and lots of legroom.

Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama and Cebu Arts Council Foundation chair Fe Sala Villarica led the ribbon-cutting. Present for the ceremonies were SM's senior assistant vice president for operations Marissa Fernan and senior AVP for marketing Millie Dizon.

The first of its kind in the city, SM City Cebu's Theater One was already the venue of impressive live performances even before its formal opening. These included a piano concert by Austrian-based virtuoso Aima Labra-Makk, the musical play "Love beyond Time," the Bayanihan Dance Company's "Bravo Bayanihan" and the Perlas Awards.

Theater One is located at the SM City Cebu Cineplex in the Reclamation Area, Cebu City.

PROMINENT Cebuanos (from left) Joy Onglatco, Arts Council Foundation of Cebu event chair Maxwell Espina, Delia Jurado and Sue Gray

SHARING the honors at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of SM City Cebu's Theater One were Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama, Arts Council of Cebu Foundation chair Fe Sala Villarica (second from left). Also shown in photo are SM's Sr. AVP-marketing communications group Millie Dizon (extreme right) and SM's AVP-operations Marissa Fernan (extreme left).

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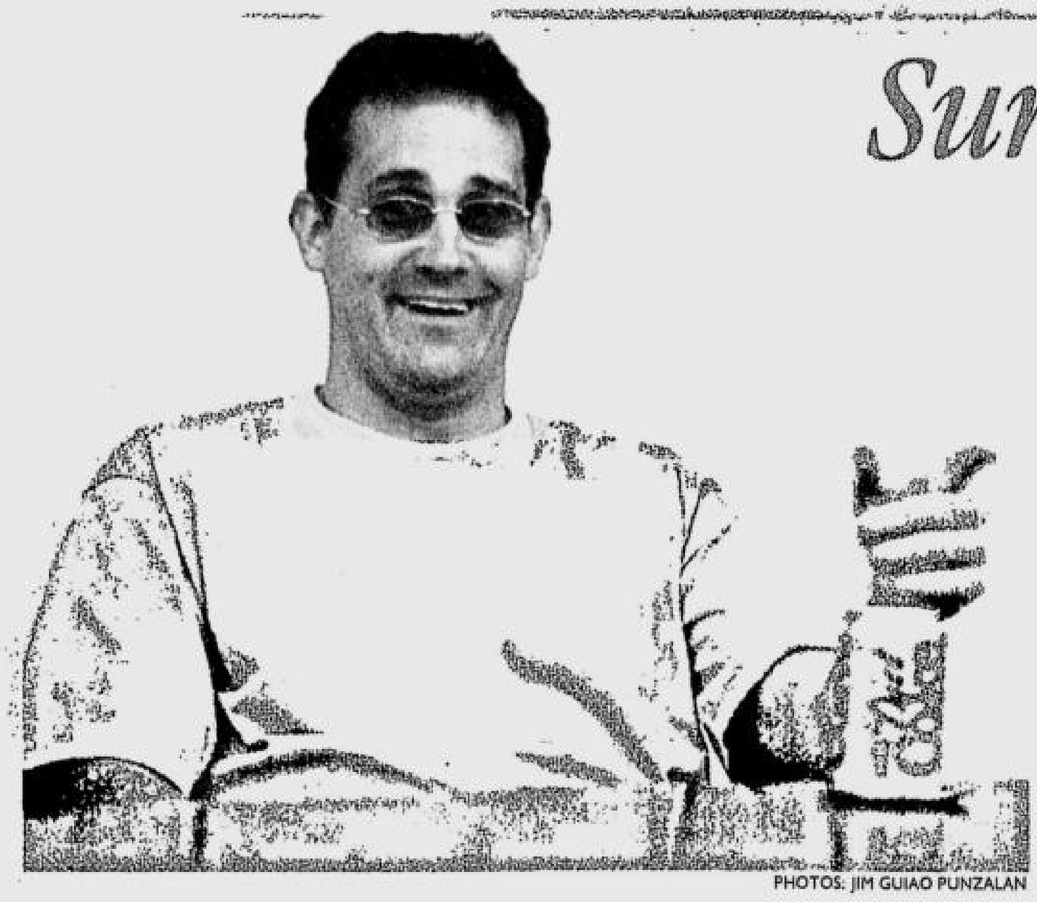


PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

TALK N TEXT COACH BILL BAYNO

Basketball coaching is the highest of highs

'This is the hardest working group I've ever had. I mean that in all sincerity . . . the local guys I've had are the most coachable. A lot of kids in America are not coachable'

PLAYTIME

By the staff

LIKE most foreigners, the first thing that crossed Bill Bayno's mind when he was asked if he would coach a professional Filipino basketball team here was—Abu Sayyaf. But that didn't scare him. He loved coaching so much that the possibility of coaching a team overseas was an offer he couldn't and didn't refuse.

Little did he know that it wasn't the Muslim extremists who would threaten his coaching job in the Philippine Basketball Association, but the Basketball Coaches Association of the Phils.

The BCAP felt insulted that Talk N Text hired an American instead of a Filipino for the coaching job. It was, said BCAP, like no Filipino was deserving enough and only an American could do it. The coaches group now has a pending case with the labor department against Bayno.

During the Playtime interview, however, Bayno showed nary a trace of resentment toward BCAP. In fact, the American sounded sympathetic. "I didn't come here to take anyone's job," said Bayno. "I don't think I'm gonna be here for life... I'm not the best coach, but we are the best basketball nation in the world. I've learned from the best coaches in the world. I've learned from Hall of Fame guys. I think, as much as I'm learning from the coaches down here, that I could contribute something."

He said he loved basketball so much he was willing to hold clinics anywhere in the Philippines. Even in Mindanao, right at the doorstep of the Abus.

While the BCAP hasn't budged, it cannot belittle what Bayno has done so far for the once cellar-dweller Talk N Text team. Using Bayno's signature run-and-gun style, the Phone Pals are now title challengers. And, yes, as of last count, Talk N Text is the team to beat.

Has communication been a problem? You're coaching a bunch of Filipinos with different skills in English.

With a couple of guys that has been an issue. What I've done, I have a couple of my assistant coaches [talk] to the players because I talk fast, (chuckles) especially during the games. Early on, [during] the first game, I don't think they understood, but it's human nature to just say, "Yeah, coach, yeah." (Laughter) So I have my staff, one of my guys, Coach Ariel, [talk] especially to Ibet [Dimape] because he's my point guard. He doesn't always understand what I say to him. Everything I say is repeated. If you watch our games, Coach Ariel is right next to me. And it has helped. There were situations in the first game [when] I just assumed he understood everything I was saying.

You're gonna have to learn Filipino, Bill.

Yeah. No one has taught me. (Chuckles) When I was coaching at U Mass, we had a Spanish back court. They were very good players. The easiest way... is to have my staff interpret what I'm saying and it has helped. At every timeout, Ariel repeats to Ibet in Tagalog everything I've said. The other guys have a better understanding. But Ibet is the most important because he's the point guard and thereby the extension of me on the court.

Ibet is Cebuano. Maybe you should learn Cebuano instead.

I have a hard enough time with English. (Laughter)

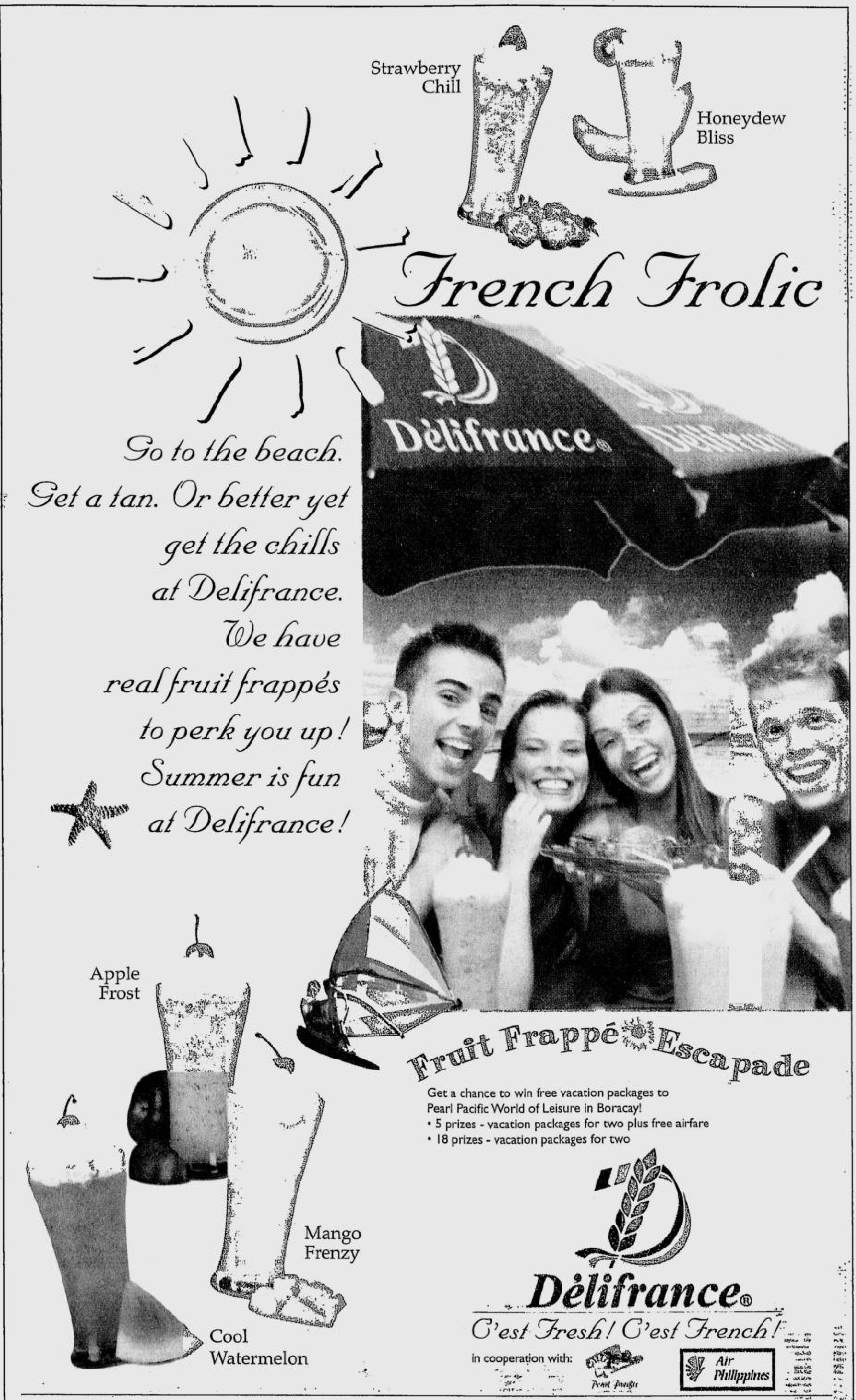
How do you find the Filipino brand of basketball?

Before I took the job, I watched a lot of films. A couple of games I watched on tape. I was impressed and surprised. I didn't think it would be to the level that it was. I look at these national players and the best players in the league—they can play at the highest level in college in the States. They might not be at Jason Williams' level, but they're good athletes, they're quick, they're tough. I was surprised. They're much better than I thought.

Aren't they too lazy?

I'm a big, big believer in [the saying that] if you demand a lot, you get a lot. And I've demanded a lot of my local guys and they've given it to me. You come watch one of my practices, the last thing you would say about my locals is they're lazy. They would run

BASKETBALL/ p.G2



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Basketball coaching is the highest of highs

From page G1

through that wall. I think a lot of it has to do with how hard you push them. Even kids in the States—I found this to be true with young kids, college kids, with the pros that I've coached—they're gonna do what you let them do. If you let them be lazy, they're gonna be lazy. I think all kids want discipline. They wanna be pushed; they wanna be challenged.

We have a drill that we do at the end of every practice called Superman, and it's a killer. They'll fight me on certain days of practice and try to con me into not doing it but, so far, in these last two games, they've gone down to the wire... All I've talked about is our Superman drill because it's a conditioner, and one of our goals is to be the best-conditioned team. In the fourth quarter I think it has helped us win games, especially in the second game where we stretched a 25-point lead into a 40-point lead. Last game, when the going got tough, we got transition baskets and you could see the other team get tired. What's fun as a coach is to watch the other team... We rebound and run in the fourth quarter, you can see the look on the other players' faces, they're: "Oh! Here we go again!" They gotta run back. Mark Telan is dunking on people in the last two minutes of the game and getting out and running... That's given me a lot of pride as a coach.

What exactly is the Superman drill?

It's four minutes of continuous sprinting where you have... We usually do three players at one end and three players at this end with three basketballs. You and I have a ball and at each elbow there are passers. We pass it and get it back, then pass it, get it back, then pass it, get it back, then lay it up. The next guy passes and he gets it back. There are three balls and it's just continuous sprinting, and they have to make a certain amount. If they miss, they have to run a killer sprint after the four minutes is up. And I actually go there and do it with them sometimes to show them that I'm 39 and I'll do it, part of my motivation as a leader in managing.

If you miss a layup, do you also do the sprint?

Yes.

This we gotta see. (Laughter)

Funny story, we had an uneven amount so I jumped on. I like to stay in shape anyway. And I missed the layup during one of the drills and they reminded me. (Laughter) All the coaches got on the line and we all ran. I think it builds unity and it builds cohesion. It makes coaching fun. I've had some great teams and this is as coachable a group as I've ever had.

How is the team coping with your philosophy?

At first it was tough, but I've always prided myself on being a good communicator and I was real clear when I first got here. "This is what we're gonna do, this is how we're gonna do it." I told them it would be the hardest they've ever worked in their lives. But again we had a big challenge... the team [has] consistently lost games. I looked at the stats in the last conference. They were last in almost every category. To change that, there's only one way to do that and that's with hard work... Losing that first game was tough because as a coach you would want to be able to say, "See, it paid off." And a lot of it is blind faith when you put a new system in. But I think they saw that after every practice they were physically exhausted, and I think they knew eventually it was gonna pay off. So it's been rewarding as a coach to be able to show them we're winning those games because of hard work. I think there is luck involved and hard work creates lucky opportunities. I believe that in basketball, you get lucky breaks and lucky bounces because of the effort you put in. I'm proud of what they've done because we've got a couple of guys that have never played before.

Did you expect any controversy before you came here?

I had no idea. They told me when I got off the plane. (Laughter) The customs agent, when I gave him my papers, asked, "When are you leaving?" I said, "I have no idea." So I was afraid they were not gonna let me in. When I told him who I was, he was a basketball fan, he said, "Oh, you're the new Mobiline coach. You only have three weeks. Your paper is only good for three weeks." I got scared. (Chuckles) I've come to town as a tryout. If they don't like what I do at practice, I'm out of here. (Laughter)

Going back to that game with Sta. Lucia, you were obviously infuriated. What happened there?

There were some things that happened that I just didn't feel we got a fair shake. I should've cooled off. I didn't wanna go in the interview room after the game because I knew I was upset, but they asked me to go in and so I went in. I said some things out of frustration and, you know, if I had to do it all over again I wouldn't have said them. I think the referees are good refs. I watched them on tape. The difference in America, they don't have the egos that American officials have. I watched how hard they worked, and that's all you can ask... I just think it's my job to defend my kids. It's got nothing to do with my feelings, with the PBA or the BCAP. I think they do a great job. I'll do anything I can to help the BCAP. I'm here to help Filipino basketball. I don't say that putting myself above Filipino coaches. Every tape I've watched of these other coaches, I learned something. I learned something from Yeng Guiao, from Jong [Uichico], from [Eric] Altamirano, from all. I think all good coaches do.

They can also learn from you.

I think so. Part of coaching is—Larry Brown used to do this all the time; he's a Hall of Fame coach that I learned from—we would scout another team. Like New Mexico, I remember one year we scouted them. He liked the play that they ran. So he ran a play and we called it New Mexico. He saw another team run a version of the play with a little different wrinkle, so he kept changing New Mexico (chuckles) to the point [where]—one of our players, Jon Barry, who plays in the NBA, has a brother, Scooter—when the coach called out in practice New Mexico, Scooter, out of frustration, said, "Which New Mexico? We've got three of them." (Laughter)

I didn't come here to take anyone's job. I don't think I'm gonna be here for life. But the way I look at it... I'm not the best coach, but we are the best basketball nation in the world. I've learned from the best coaches in the world. I've learned from Hall of Fame guys. I think, as much as I'm learning from the coaches down here, that I could contribute something and that the PBA can be better off, and that the coaches can be better off. Again, I emphasize, I don't say I'm putting myself above the other

> 'We have a drill that we do at the end of every practice called Superman, and it's a killer. They'll fight me on certain days of practice and try to con me into not doing it'

and I think they can learn from me. And I offered [to] go anywhere to do a clinic. I wanna leave my work here. When I leave here, if it's a year from now or two years from now, I want everybody to say, "Bill Bayno was a good person, and he cared about other people," and that I left my mark on Filipino basketball.

What has impressed you most about the local athletes?

Their coachability. The biggest problem we have in America is our kids are spoiled. The best players get spoiled at a young age. We have what we call AAU Basketball. These kids, from the time they're identified as the best, many of their careers are ruined. In the States we have the best players in high school called McDonald's All-American. It's McDonald's-sponsored. They take 20 of the best players. Those are the crème de la crème. Those players should make the NBA. They are the most God-gifted players in America. And you look at how many millions of people we have, and to take the best 20... Most of them do make it but if you look at every year, you'll see a handful that don't make it because they never develop a work ethic, because they're always told how great they are and they become uncoachable... I could name 10 guys right now that should've been in the NBA and never made it for those reasons. We have these AAU programs that covet these kids at a young age and they spoil them. They take away their hunger, they take away their work ethic. The Filipino players work hard. My guys—I've said this before and I tell them this all the time—this is the hardest working group I've ever had. I mean that in all sincerity. Vic Pablo and Mark Telan, Ibet Demape, the local guys I've had are the most coachable. A lot of kids in America are not coachable. They all wanna play in the NBA. They're all selfish. They all wanna score 20 points. They all wanna be the man. And it makes it harder to coach.

They all wanna be Michael Jordan.

Yeah. What happens, it affects your chemistry because you give them roles and all it takes is for one kid not to accept his role. Say, Kenny to get jealous of Ibet, or Vic to get jealous of Mark. We haven't had that. Or for the locals to get jealous of the imports. I'm proud of my imports because they have fit in, I said this when I got here. I think everyone says the team that has the best imports wins. I don't think that's the case. I think the imports are a wash. They cancel each other out. They're gonna get 20 points each. I'm trying to get my guys to understand that, if we win a championship, our success right now is [due in] big part [to] our locals. And it's proven true. Our locals outscore our imports.

People have been saying we should forget about basketball because we're too short and too slow.

I think you should do everything. I think you should be well rounded. Basketball is a fun sport. It's been my first love, and there are so many people in the States that are crazy about basketball because it's a game that's easy to fall in love with. I think it's healthy and reduces stress. It teaches you so many things about life, the competition. I talk about that with my players now. Most of them are pros and they've already established their life in college. I would always draw similarities between the hard work we do and the hard work it's gonna take to be successful in school and in the real world. One of the reasons I came here is because it's the No. 1 sport.

Have you observed any difference in the way we play basketball?

You know, the first thing that hit me when I came here, I saw little kids playing basketball in the street—little kids with little

a street pole. You know, that's how I grew up. And that's how the best players in America, Michael Jordan included—I guarantee there was a little pole somewhere in Wilmington, North Carolina that he played on.

Aside from physical limitations, what else do you think Filipino players lack?

Probably just the height. There are some guys with size—[Marlou] Aquino, [Dennis] Espino—but in terms of world-class, that's the one thing. There aren't a whole lot of 7-footers running around here. When you play China, they'll have three. But they have everything else. Your guys have toughness, they're coachable, they're skilled, they've got good speed.

There should then be a concerted effort to make the next generations taller. (Laughter)

(Grins) It will happen.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in New York in a little town called Goshen, one hour north of New York City. But that struck me as... When I saw that I knew I was in the right place. That's why I'd like to try... I think there can be a Filipino player in the NBA in the next 10 years if continued emphasis is put on the coaching and teaching of the young kids. I'm gonna go help some youth groups with Ateneo, but I will volunteer my time to help young coaches and to teach them how to teach fundamentals because Filipino athletes are quick enough and fast enough. There are a lot of guys in the NBA that aren't 7-ft-tall or 6'6" and there's one thing about the Filipinos, they have speed. I look at all these local and national point guards, they're fast and athletic. And speed is the key... As a country you should do everything because basketball isn't for everyone. But I think the emphasis is, sports does so much to help kids' self-esteem, to keep them off drugs, to keep them out of gangs, to keep them head toward the right direction. It teaches them to be successful in life. Being able to win a championship and the teamwork is no different from the teamwork you go through here when you guys are doing a story together, a project together. It's all the same—the camaraderie, the commitment, the unselfishness, the dedication.

There's a difference. There's big money in basketball. (Laughter)

Yeah, but I think if you have a passion, money is not an issue. I coached my last team, I gave my owner $20,000. I gave him out of my pocket so we could stay operable. I never made one penny for six months' work, a lot of work. My phone bill was $400 a month. I'm making good money here

that because I can take care of my little girls, my family. Most people who play basketball that have a passion for the sport, they'll do what they do and won't do it for money. They'll have less success if they're doing it just for the money.

Did you ever play for the national league?

I got cut. I tried. I played a good college career. I tried for the New York Knicks; Patrick Ewing and I were rookies together. He made it; I got cut. I got screwed (grins), but it was a great experience. I had a chance to play overseas or play in the minor leagues in America, but I also had a chance to get into coaching right away with a great coach in a great school—Seton Hall University in New Jersey with PJ Carlesimo. They went to the national championship game in 1988.

How old were you when you started coaching?

Fresh out of college, 23. My dad was a coach. He coached me in high school, so I knew at a young age this was something I wanted to do. I wasn't sure if I would do it, but it was in my mind.

What's your favorite place in Manila outside of the gym? (Chuckles)

I love walking around Makati. I just don't get here much. It reminds me of Manhattan. My favorite place is Starbucks. I'm in Starbucks every day. When I saw a Starbucks in the Philippines, I knew I'd be happy.

Which Starbucks?

Which street is it...? Emerald. I go there and I go to the one in The Podium... I take that back. My home away from home is Shangri-La, the health club. I go there and I work out every day and I relax...

You haven't been out of town?

I took my team on a two-day retreat to—I don't know if I'm saying this right—Tagaytay? We went to the Highlands up there and had a little team-building retreat. We had some fun. I plan on traveling.

Are you a beach person?

Yeah.

How about for nightlife, where do you go?

During the season I don't go out. After every game we go to dinner. We went to Pravda one night. I've got a couple of friends I've met, Filipinos, so we stayed there and hung out for a little bit but I don't have energy...

Are the players also not allowed to go out during the season?

I ask them all not to drink during the season. I'm not their father. I don't make them, you know... (Laughter)

Would you consider starting a family here?

Yeah, that's up to God. (Laughs) Absolutely. I like it down here. I haven't thought about it if I'd stay here for the rest of my life, but if I meet the right person...

How do you find the basketball audience here?

I love them. They're great.

Aren't they too wild?

You could never get too wild. From the fans' perspective, the crazier, the better. It's just better for the sports. I called all my

emonies. "There's 18,000 people here. They've got dancers, singers, you name it."

Do you think we have a good chance at the gold in the Asian Games?

I don't know who the other teams are. I know China is the best. But my outlook at Filipino basketball, looking at the athletes—the speed, the quickness and the skills—there is a great size but there's good enough size to really be a factor and be one of the better teams in Asia.

There was a time when we were the best, until the Chinese outgrew us. (Laughter)

Like anything else, the best players in the States come from the most populated areas—New York City, L.A., Chicago. China is the most populated country and that's why it's pretty much demographics. But I think the talent level, if Filipino basketball continues to grow, I think they have a chance.

I think the key is you gotta start with the youth. That's why I'd like to... If there is a group of youth coaches here, I would love to do a clinic for them, and teach them and show them what I know. If they like it they can use it. I guarantee the things that I have that I've learned from other coaches, the drills, will help develop their players.

Maybe when they read this they'll take you up on your offer.

I'm helping Ateneo because they asked me to. They have a couple of youth camps. But I'd really like if there is a youth organization of coaches...

Those are the rich men's kids in Ateneo.

I do it because they asked me to. I'll do it for anyone. Back in Vegas I always said no to the rich people. I only went to the inter city and to the ghetto because that's where I was raised. I'm here because of the ghetto back in New York. That's where I learned to play. I was the only white kid in my neighborhood. They accepted me. I almost got killed the first time I was in there, but after that...

They say white men can't jump.

Some of us could. (Laughter)

According to CNN, you were fired at UNLV...

It's a long story. I was fired at UNLV (University of Nevada-Las Vegas). I spent 5½ years there. I got fired for something that's got nothing to do with basketball. In America, in college, they have very, very strict rules. I cannot buy my players a hotdog. I can get fired for that. I can't give them a dollar bill. If they're hungry, I can't feed them. It's a reactionary rule that punishes the many to stop the few that may illegally pay players or buy them a car.

One player we recruited was the best player in the country, Lamar Odom—he plays for the Los Angeles Clippers now. He came to me, and after three weeks I kicked him out of my program for personal reasons that I won't divulge. I don't wanna hurt him. But he couldn't live up to my standards. And after I kicked him out of the program, it came to light that there was a booster. A booster is a supporter of the university, usually a local business-

Basketball coaching is the highest of highs

From page G2

man. This booster had given Lamar money after I kicked him out of school to help him live because he was still in Vegas trying to figure out where he was gonna go to school. So the NCAA came in as our governing body, and investigated my program for two years and never found one thing wrong with me personally or how I ran my program. They didn't find one violation.

What were your stereotypes of Filipinos when you first came here?

None, because I have never… I take that back. The first time I came down here, the first stereotype was the Abu Sayyaf. I didn't know where they were located so my family still thinks my life is in danger every day. (Laughter)

I didn't know what to expect here. You could tell when you get off the plane, whether you go to France, Poland, Tahiti, you get a feel of the people within one hour. Filipinos are warm and kind and good people. I was raised a Catholic, but I'm not a big believer in the Catholic Church. I'm a Christian and I believe in Christ. My mom was relieved when I told her Manila was pretty much a Catholic city. My mom is a devout [Catholic].

How do you find Filipino food?

I just had some *hopia* today and I loved it. I love the *adobo*.

Do you cook?

Yeah. I've been a bachelor all my life so… One thing I do here is cook because it helps me kill time.

Who are your top five picks for the national team?

Hmmm… I hate ranking players. I don't think it's fair. If I had to pick 10 guys for the national team, I wouldn't wanna do it because they've got so many good players. I don't know. I love Boyet Fernandez's game, I love [Johnny] Abarrientos' game. Patrick Fran is one of my guys. I think Asi has a lot to make it. I think Jeffrey Cariaso. I love Seigle. Danny Seigle could play for me any day. It would be a hard decision.

How much were you offered by Talk N Text?

(Laughs) Let's put it this way, it's about one-sixth of what I made at UNLV. So I didn't come here for the money. When they offered me, I didn't negotiate, I didn't ask for more. I say that in all sincerity because I love basketball. It's been my first love. I've never loved a woman like I love basketball. I love my little girls more. But outside of my family, I love the game of basketball. I love to coach. I love to teach. The gratification you get from watching your kids get better and see them respond, the togetherness, coaching is the highest of highs and lowest of lows. When in games, being with that team in the locker room, the camaraderie, there's nothing like… I get goosebumps when I talk about it. When you lose a game it's the loneliest feeling in the world. You feel like you died, like somebody died in the family. I think that's because I care about it so much. I couldn't imagine doing anything else. I'm not capable of doing anything else.

LOSE WEIGHT:

Konjac, the formula that has helped countless European women

For all those (women and men) who wish to lose 8 lbs (or more) in one week

What is Konjac, the famous cure, which makes you feel attractive again even in the most hopeless case?

…This is what Dr. Hortz (Senior German Specialist in natural medicine) reveals:

"Those who say that they can let you lose weight with the help of some methods or medicine are liars.'

Please excuse me for being so outspoken. But I am shocked. I am shocked because during the past three years I have met more than two hundred persons with weight problem. And almost every time they said: "I don't know anymore what to do. I have tried everything. but nothing could make me lose my excessive pounds."

Do you know what most of these people answered when asked about they had tried? They responded: "Diet or medicines, or again various methods, pills…"

And do you know what these people have become today, the desperate ones who have been incapable of losing their overweight? All of them lost weight. Even the one case who had to reduce more than 50 lbs. was able to make it. And without any diet. Thanks to "Konjac Formula", the 100% natural cure.

Almost immediate results

"Konjac Formula" is a Japanese plant-based compound whose active substances aim at forcing your body to eliminate instead of accumulating body fat. This cure is so incredibly effective that you can lose up to 800 grams as early as after only 24 hours. Each week, you can lose at least-depending on the type of your case-4 kgs. (or 9 lbs.)

These active substances work in your body in the morning, in the afternoon and even at night while you sleep. You lose your weight automatically. The only thing you have to do is to use the formula before the two major daily meals.

You can go on eating as usual. There is no diet. No need to count the calories because every superfluous intake of calories will be automatically eliminated. Therefore, you will never feel hungry. Neither will you have the impression of depriving yourself of anything.

The water accumulation and the fat storage become progressively dissolved in every part of the body, including your hips, waist, thighs and other spots well-known for being uneasy to get thinner.

Even if you tried everything…

If you never really lost weight, this time you will. Even though you may think that you are a particular case, you still will. You will have difficulty in believing your eyes when you see that, day after day, week after week, the pointer tips the scales at lesser pounds.

Moreover, it does not matter if you have had overweight for 5 or 20 years. Neither is it important if you have to lose 10, 20, 50 lbs. or even more.

Now let's forget about secrets as well as miracle products and lose weight with guarantee…

Everybody who experienced this fast weight reducing cure has lost weight without putting on any pounds. Don't you think that if the cure worked with others (including the hopeless cases), it will also make you lose weight and remain permanently slender?

I repeat that, with this unique cure, you will be losing at least 8 lbs. each week, if you need to lose less than 22 lbs. And 10-12 lbs. weekly if you wish to lose more than 22 lbs., simply by ordering a test treatment as early as today.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO READ ANYTHING ELSE, READ AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING

The five principal advantages of the Konjac Formula:

1) 100% herbal-based
2) Rich in fiber with great water-absorbing capacity.
3) Satiating effect.
4) Limits uptake of lipids and carbohydrates and facilitates intestinal transit.
5) No therapeutic claims.

Let's imagine that your intake is 4,500 calories daily.

With Konjac Formula or "the fat burner", your body will consume merely 1,500 calories: you lose your weight automatically, without any change in your eating habits.

In order to provide you with the proof of the absolute efficiency of this weight reducing cure, you can test it without obligation. You will either lose your excessive pounds in a very rapid and easy way, or pay nothing.

What would be a better proof of the unconditional success of Dr. Hortz' cure than to tell you: "Receive the product, lose initially at least 8 lbs. without any special diet, and make your decision only after."

IMPORTANT: At present, our stock is still very limited. In order to be assured of the prompt service, please fill out and send us the test coupon this very day. Do it now while you are thinking about it.

"It's fantastic to be able to look at myself in the mirror and see how slender I am."

M.S.I.C., Room 303 Munro Bldg., 612 Pinatubo St., Mandaluyong City, 1550 M.M.

COUPON FOR GUARANTEED FREE TRIAL

Please cut out and forward to
M.S.I.C., Room 303 Munro Bldg., 612 Pinatubo St., Mandaluyong City, 1550 M.M.

YES, I would like to benefit from your unique offer to test, without obligation, the Konjac formula or "the fat burner". You expressly guarantee that

1) This 100% natural product is without any therapeutic effect
2) I do not have to follow any particular diet
3) No exercise, no massage
4) My absolutely free trial is guaranteed.

If I am not satisfied after taking a week treatment of my first bottle, I shall return to you whatever is left on my first bottle and the remaining unopened bottles within 30 days by registered mail. In this case, you will refund me the full value of the product upon reception of my returned package.
The above being understood, please send me within 15 days, discreetly packed, without any outside marking, the formula hereunder which I choose:

615 ☐ I must lose more than 20 pounds (......lbs to be exact). I order a double cure at P 2,295 + P 55 forwarding charges = P 2,350
614 ☐ I need to lose less than 20 pounds (......lbs to be exact). I order a single cure at P 1,295 + P 55 forwarding charges = P 1,350
616 ☐ I want to lose my 40 pounds or more (......lbs to be exact). I order an extended cure at P 2,895 + P 55 forwarding charges = P 2,950
617 ☐ I want to lose my excess pounds for good and order an intensive cure at P 3,395 + P 55 forwarding charges = P 3,450
300 ☐ Aside from my treatment, I would like to order a Konjak Gel Cream to help more burn excess fats and reshape my figure at a price of P 995.00

☐ Bankard ☐ VISA ☐ ☐ American Express

Card No. Exp. Date:
Cardholder: Signature:

I am enclosing my payment for P ______

1. ☐ cheque made out to MAIL SHOPPING INTERNATIONAL CORP.
2. ☐ postal money order made out to MAIL SHOPPING INTERNATIONAL CORP.
3. ☐ I prefer to pay C.O.D. through the Phil. Postal Corp. upon receipt of my kit even if it costs me an additional P 60.
4. ☐ Whatever form of payment I choose, I wish to be served with absolute priority. I therefore tick this box and add P 50 to my above payment.

Family Name: First Name:
Address:
Zip Code
Tel. No.: Birthdate: Signature:

P.S. If you mail this coupon within 3 days, you will receive in addition an unusual (and pleasing) gift, free of charge. The "surprise" regalo will be inside the package, and you may keep it, no matter what.

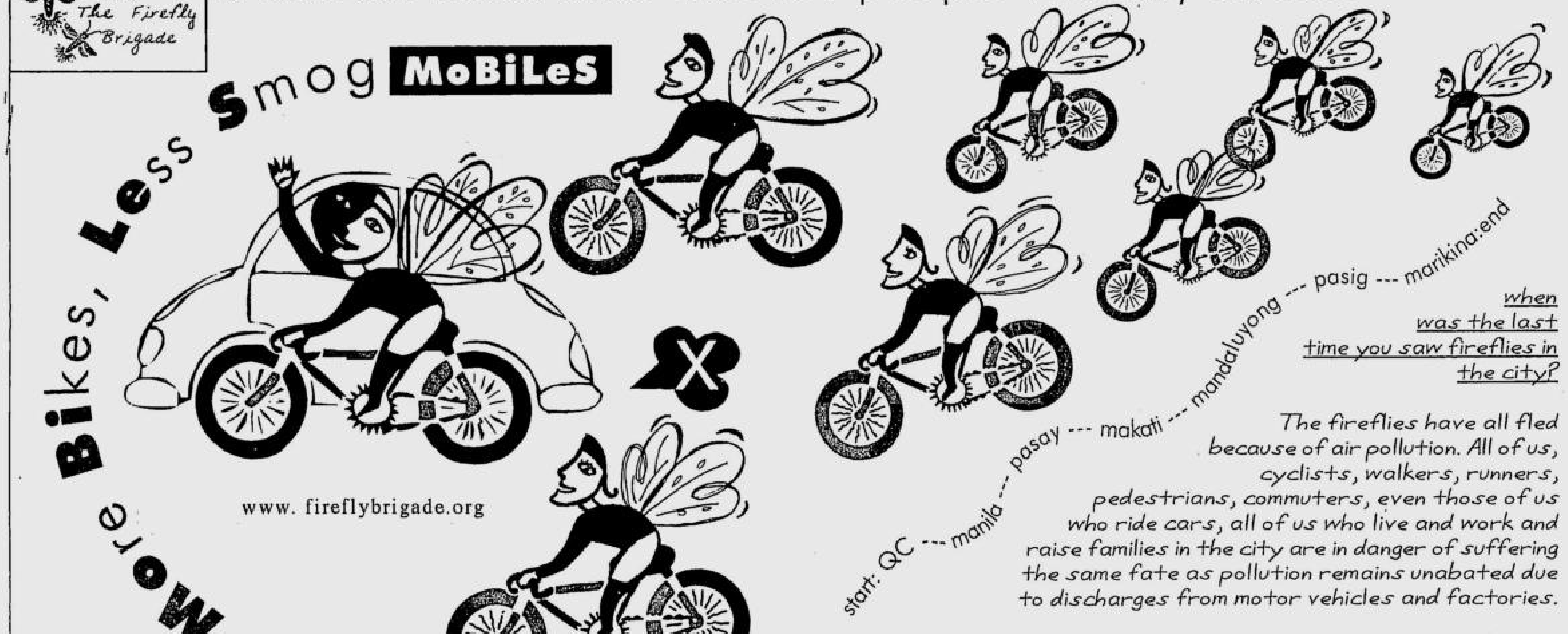
Fax us at 531-3507 or call 533-7932 or 532-8017

e-mail: msic@info.com.ph
cell no.: 0917-8937343
05060123-PI

tour of the fireflies 2002 · 21 april · earthday eve

The Firefly Brigade

a critical mass bike ride for people-friendly streets


More Bikes, Less Smog MoBiLeS
www. fireflybrigade.org
start: QC --- manila --- pasay --- makati --- mandaluyong --- pasig --- marikina:end

when was the last time you saw fireflies in the city?

The fireflies have all fled because of air pollution. All of us, cyclists, walkers, runners, pedestrians, commuters, even those of us who ride cars, all of us who live and work and raise families in the city are in danger of suffering the same fate as pollution remains unabated due to discharges from motor vehicles and factories.

We are also in danger of disappearing like the fireflies, but we can choose to fight for clean air and bring the fireflies back.

50 km through 7 cities of Metro Manila
starts at **UP Diliman** and ends at the **Marikina Riverbanks Center**
registration starts at **5.30 am** at the **UP Diliman Old Golf Course**
(near College of MassCom, across the oblation north side)
ride begins at **7.00 am** and will end about **12 nn**

special prizes to be given away for **most creative costumes** and **best decorated bikes!** so come in your earthday best

registration fee is **P 50**

Partnership for Clean Air

where to register: (register by april 7 if you want to order tour jerseys or t-shirts. deadline for registration without jersey/t-shirt orders is April 17). **BIKESHOPS:** the bike room (cartimar) • joven (marikina: amang rodriguez cor. marcos hi-way) • roosevelt (roosevelt near cor. baler) • extreme (timog cor. panay) • bicycle works (cubao, beside isetann) • bisikleta atbp (junction, san mateo - batasan rd.) • **CRAVINGS restaurants and cafes:** katipunan ave. • 3/L robinson's place ermita • 5/L shangri-la plaza mall • wilson st., greenhills • 3/L festival mall alabang • 3/L robinson's galleria • asturias st.,manila • registration forms available at **THE BODYSHOP stores:** podium, ortigas • alabang towncenter • glorietta 2 • SM south mall • SM megamall bldg B • SM north EDSA • SM manila • SM fairview • SM sucat • robinson's galleria • robinson's place ermita • robinson's pasig • robinson's novaliches • shangri-la mall • festival supermall • sta lucia mall • rockwell powerplant • ali mall • registration forms available at the ff **BRATPACK outlets:** SM manila • SM southmall • SM north EDSA • robinson's place ermita • robinson's galleria • registration forms also available at **Bantay Kalikasan, ABS CBN Foundation**

Bili na ng SIM or load na ng cellphone to join

TALK 'N TEXT™ GSM

WHATTA TRIP

Get a chance to win a

Toyota Revo VX200

Or a trip for 2 to
Bangkok**
plus pocket money
Every week!

DESTINATION
DESTINATION
BANGKOK

Or ang trip mong
Nokia 5210
Every day!

NOKIA
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Sali na sa Talk 'N Text WhattaTrip raffle! Here's how:

*No need to send raffle entries! You automatically qualify upon activation of new Talk 'N Text SIM and loading Talk 'N Text pre-paid cards during the promo period.

*You will be assigned computer-generated raffle numbers per transaction.

P300 - 1 raffle entry
P500 - 2 raffle entries
P1000 - 5 raffle entries
Newly activated SIM - 3 raffle entries

* You can win once per raffle entry.

* You can inquire on the number of raffle entries you have accumulated by typing <ENTRIES> and send to 211. Cost is P2.50 per inquiry. You can also call I-con Hotline (02) 888-1111 (GMA) or 1800-888-1111 (VIS/MIN) or *888 from your Talk 'N Text cellphone.

* Winners will be notified via registered mail, congratulatory text message, and a voice call to their Talk 'N Text mobile number.

*Winners may claim their prizes at the Wireless Center specified by them and must present their active Talk 'N Text cellphone with their respective SIM number, congratulatory text message, and any valid ID with photo.

*All employees of Smart Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, and their advertising agency and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the promo.

*Prizes not claimed after 60 days from date of notification will be forfeited in favor of Talk 'N Text Wireless Marketing with prior approval of DTI.

*PILTEL shall shoulder the 20% TAX for prizes exceeding Ten Thousand Pesos.

*Prize for trip to Bangkok is non-transferable but convertible to cash (P40,000).

*All draws will be conducted every 5:00 pm at 22/F Smart Tower Ayala Ave., Makati City.

*Daily draw is from April 1-June 30, 2002.

*Weekly draw is from April 9 - July 2, 2002.

*Grand draw is on July 9, 2002.

** With 3 days, 2 nights hotel accomodation and $200 pocket money.

Per DTI -NCR Permit No. 0533, Series of 2002.

Promo period is from March 31 up to June 30, 2002.

Yan ang galing without overspending!

POWERED BY THE SMART NETWORK

For inquiries, please call I-con Hotline (02)888-1111(GMA), 1800-888-1111(Vis/Min) or *888 from your Talk 'N Text cellphone

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e-mail address: jobmarket@inquirer.com.ph
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☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
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SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
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☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
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☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

interMed
Marketing Phils., Inc.

is looking for high flyers and dynamic individuals to promote its leading vitamins (e.g. *Cherifer*) and willing to grow with the company.

The Company ***Intermed*** is a newly organized company that will be marketing leading vitamins in the market. In the short-term, ***Intermed*** is expected to launch new products to add to its portfolio of innovative products. The company's vision is to expand in the field of pediatrics, obstetrics, dermatologicals, and diabetes.

The Team To promote our high quality and innovative products, we need a select team of 45 qualified

Medical Representatives (Code: MR),

every one of them preferably:

- ✔ 22-30 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any 4-year course
- ✔ Sales experience as medical representative will be an advantage
- ✔ Creative with excellent communication skills
- ✔ Must possess a pleasing, assertive and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character

To compliment our sales team, we will need

Accountants (Code: ACCT):

- ✔ CPA, Female, 23-30 years old
- ✔ Computer literate, has hands-on knowledge of Microsoft Office programs
- ✔ Self-motivated, systematic and possess good analytical skills
- ✔ Willing to be trained in all phases of general accounting
- ✔ Must possess impeccable integrity, reliable, hardworking and can work with minimum supervision.

To support our field force, we will require highly qualified

District Managers (Code: DM):

- ✔ 28-35 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any 4-year course
- ✔ Experience in promoting the concept of Chlorella Growth Factor (CGF) will be an advantage
- ✔ With at least 2 years experience as district manager
- ✔ Creative with excellent communication skills
- ✔ Must possess a pleasing, assertive and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character

To assist our team, we will need

Secretaries (Code: SEC):

- ✔ Female, 23-30 years old
- ✔ Graduate of four year course
- ✔ Computer literate, has hands-on knowledge of Microsoft Office programs
- ✔ Must possess a pleasing personality
- ✔ With good oral and written communication skills

To Apply Indicate the code of the position you are applying for. Submit by mail your comprehensive resume, with your latest 2"X2" picture and current salary/ benefits package, no later than April 15, 2002 to:

interMed Marketing Philippines, Inc.
Meneses Holdings Building
G. Puyat corner C. Aragon Streets
BF Commercial Center, Paranaque City
OR
MCPO Box 1101, Makati City

COME AND JOIN US!!!

As we elevate your career to the top!

We are a joint-venture with Mitsubishi of Japan, No. 1 in our industry and an ISO - 9001 certified company. We have vacancies for:

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

The candidate shall be responsible for the direct supervision and control over the administrative functions of the company. He is expected to systematize administrative work and procedures. He must have extensive experience in the areas of general services, warehouse and inventory control, grounds and building maintenance, security and safety, and purchasing.

The ideal applicant must not be over 40 years old, a graduate of any course in business or engineering, preferably with MBA units. He must have at least three (3) years supervisory experience in a medium-to-large scale business entity. He must have hands-on capability in M.S. Office and holder of a driver's license.

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

The candidate shall assist the Senior Manager for Administration and Accounting in the supervision and control over the accounting requirements of the company. He/she is expected to systematize accounting functions and procedures. He/she must have extensive experience in the areas of payroll and payable, credit and collection, cost accounting, general accounting and financial accounting in a computerized environment.

The ideal applicant must be 30 to 35 years old, a graduate of B.S. Accountancy and a Certified Public Accountant. He/she must have at least three (3) years experience in a similar capacity from a medium-to-large scale business entity. He/she must have hands-on capability in M.S. Office.

MAINTENANCE CONSULTANT

The candidate must be male and a graduate of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering. He must have about 15 to 20 years experience in the maintenance of elevators and escalators.

He must have an operational knowledge on the procedure for regular maintenance, trouble-shooting and repair/ servicing of elevators and escalators.

He must be able to speak, write and understand Japanese language.

INTERNATIONAL ELEVATOR & EQUIPMENT, INC. • 1969 •

The successful applicants for the above positions cna expect a competitive compensation package. Interested parties should apply with credentials and photo personally not later than April 20, 2002 to:

International Elevator & Equipment, Inc.
Km. 21.5 West Service Road, South Super Highway Cupang, Muntinlupa City
(Between Sucat and Alabang Interchange, near Alabang Hills Village)
Tel. No. 842-3161 to 64
Fax No. 842-3160/809-3706

SenTRo
-1771 -
MAKATI

by CHATEAU 1771

PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE
EMOTIONAL INDEPENDENCE
ZEST FOR LEARNING
RESILIENCY
ATTENTIVENESS TO DETAIL
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"eXCITED nA bA kAYO ?!"

NON-NEGOTIABLE qualifications for the **MANAGEMENT TEAM ...**
: College education na hindi bitin
: Solid work experience in the restaurant business (or in a related field)
: Computer literacy
: Team leadership experience

POSITIONS :

RESTAURANT MANAGER
SOUS CHEF
BRAND MANAGER
FOOD & BEVERAGE CONTROLLER
RECRUITMENT AND ADMIN.OFFICER

ESSENTIAL qualifications for **OPENING CREW...**
: Men & women who are considering a career in the SERVICE industry and not applying *"just to find a job"*
: College education na hindi bitin at hindi far-out yung course
: Computer literacy

POSITIONS :

COOKS
KITCHEN HELPERS
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RECEPTIONISTS
CASHIERS

SUPPORT UNITS . . . **HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF**
ACCOUNTING STAFF

Candidates must be willing to undergo 4-6 months of extensive training in all aspects of our operations, especially for leadership positions.

Qualified applicants may send their resume, 2x2 ID photo, transcript of records, certificates of employment or clearance from previous employers to: **HRD DEPARTMENT**
1771 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila

* Positions available up to April 15, 2002

IT STARTS WITH A SMALL PIECE OF ADVICE...

and we need another 50 bright and intelligent Financial Executives to spread it!

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE (a joint venture between Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company, the Philippines largest financial conglomerate, and the AXA Group, one of the world's leading insurance companies), has launched an exciting professional financial planning service for the customers of a major organization operating throughout the Philippines. We are looking for enterprising and achievement-oriented candidates to fill an additional 50 high profile, salaried Financial Executive roles. This will entail meeting with clients, analyzing their personal financial background, advising them on appropriate action to be taken and concluding the sale of appropriate products and services. Applicants should be aged 25 to 40, residents of or has preference in the areas of PANGASINAN, TARLAC, NUEVA ECIJA AND PAMPANGA and have the following qualifications:

Education	College Graduate
Experience	At least 2 years working experience with a successful track record preferably but not necessarily in the Financial Services Industry. A background in stock trading, real estate, retail sales, banking or insurance will be an advantage. The position is also open to members of the academe (i.e., teachers and professors)
Skills	Good interpersonal skills Excellent oral and written communication skills (Ability to speak Chinese will be an advantage) Sound analytical/numerical skills Proficient in MS Office applications (e.g. Word, Excel)
Qualities	Ability to listen Good judgment and comprehension Confident disposition Positive nature/outlook

In return, PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE will offer you a salary based package with excellent incentives, a comprehensive training programme, and a rewarding career path.

Qualified candidates should send their resume, transcript of records and a 2" x 2" on April 10,2002, Wednesday at Metrobank F. Tanedo Street; Tarlac City, Tarlac between 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m

... AND ENDS WITH EXPERT FINANCIAL PLANNING

PHILIPPINE
AXA LIFE
Member of the Metrobank Group

An American company, engaged in the marketing of US oncology products in the Philippines is in need of a highly competent and dynamic professional for the position below:

COUNTRY MANAGER

- *Below 35 years of age*
- *Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy with MBA degree*
- *Must have at least 3 years working experience in the field of marketing and sales in a pharmaceutical company in the Philippines*
- *Marketing and sales experience on oncology products in a foreign pharmaceutical company an advantage*

Due to the urgency of the requirement all applications should be received **on or before April 15, 2002**. Please send resume with photo, contact number, mailing address, e-mail address, and salary requirements by post AND by email to:

COUNTRY MANAGER
Human Resources Department
6th floor, Salamin Building
197 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City

wells168@netzero.net **and** clark.hsiao@msa.hinet.net
Please indicate position in subject line.

An Established Network Marketing Co. (MLM) invites suitably qualified and experienced individual, to fill up the following key positions:

VIDEO EDITOR

- Male/Female, 25-35 years old
- Knowledgeable in 3D graphics Animation and production
- With Background experience in advertising is an advatange

FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS ORGANIZER

- Male/Female, 25-28 years old
- BSC Mass Communication and/or Marketing graduate
- Background experience in organizing company's activities such as:
  - Seminars and Conventions
  - Product Launching
  - Sales Rallies
  - Trips/Local and abroad
- Good Interpersonal and Leadership skill

FRANCHISE MANAGER

- Male/Female, 25-35 years old
- Knowledge and experience in all aspects of franchising including operation implementation and enforcement
- With Degree in Business or Major in Marketing
- Good Interpersonal & leadership skill

PUBLISHING EDITOR/WEB DESIGNER

- Male, 22-28 years old
- BSC Major in English or Journalism graduate
- Knowledgeable in HTLM, Java Script and Macromedia Flash
- Design & Maintain the Web page; In-charge e-mail correspondence
- With background Experience from a Network Marketing Co.
- Periodical publication/Newsletters & brochures

PRODUCT MANAGER

- Male/Female, 25-35 years old
- Qualified nutritionist
- With Marketing Experience and sound knowledge in health products and Food Supplement
- Good Interpersonal and marketing skills.

Please send your resumé to:

The Sr. Marketing Manager
3rd Floor, EDMARK Bldg.
No. 355 P. Tuazon Blvd. cor. 21st Avenue,
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 913-5515
Email: edmark@info.com.ph

THE WORLD BANK
World Bank Office Manila

Position Title: Mindanao Post Conflict and Development Specialist

The World Bank Office in Manila requires a highly competent, results-oriented individual who will be working with, and across, various sectoral task teams in providing expert technical assistance and coordination skills related to the expanding World Bank-assisted program in Mindanao. Based in Manila, he/she is expected to travel frequently to Mindanao. Initially, the appointment is for a two-year fixed-term basis, with a possibility for renewal. This position is subject to local recruitment and compensation package and offers attractive, challenging and professional growth opportunities in working within a global development organization.

The selected candidate will be working with an internationally-recruited lead coordinator for World-Bank-assisted programs in Mindanao, and would have the following major duties and responsibilities:

- Provide expert technical assistance in the design and implementation of a practical and sustainable peace and development plan for Mindanao;
- Assist in coordinating World Bank assistance in Mindanao;
- Liaise with, and provide information, to relevant national and local government units, NGOs, peoples organizations, academic institutions, private sector, international donor agencies, and other stakeholders on matters related to Mindanao and World Bank assistance in Mindanao;

Below are the desired minimum qualifications, skills and competencies for the position:

- Masters degree or higher in a relevant discipline with a strong social science, rural and community development background;
- At least ten years of proven track record of relevant hands-on development/post conflict work particularly in Mindanao;
- Demonstrated outstanding interpersonal and networking skills among various Mindanao development stakeholders, with a strong understanding of the interrelationships of social, ethnic, religious, cultural issues in Mindanao;
- Excellent team player, with a strong client and results orientation, with a high degree of adaptability, and ability to work independently, with minimum supervision;
- Proficient computer skills as well as excellent written and verbal language skills in English and Tagalog. Knowledge of local dialects would be a plus.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resumé with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details), and copy/ies of recently completed written paper/s not later than Tuesday, April 30, 2002, to the address below:

Box No. 300
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

A Foreign-Assisted Project Needs

1 Project Development Officer V (Salary Grade 24)

Must have the relevant master's degree and Civil Service professional eligibility. Must have strong background on decentralization practices, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation and management information systems. Must have at least 4 years of management and supervision experience in education projects monitoring and evaluation. Must have actual experience in education sector foreign-assisted projects, education/project MIS report, news and/or article writing. Must have good communication skills, both oral and written, working knowledge of computer operations and at least 24 hours of relevant training in management and supervision.

1 Project Development Officer III (Salary Grade 18)

Must have completed the relevant bachelor's degree, with 2 years of relevant experience, 8 hours of training and Civil Service (CS) professional eligibility. Must demonstrate knowledge and application skills of decentralization and advocacy strategies and approaches, development of capacity building activities and materials and plan preparation and target setting. With good communication skills, both oral and written and working knowledge of computer operations.

1 Project Development Officer II (Salary Grade 15)

Must be a licensed structural engineer, with 8 hours of relevant training. Must have at least 2 years of actual experience in construction management and administration of foreign-assisted projects implemented by local government units. Must have knowledge and application skills in designing structures of various school building facilities and utilities. Must be physically fit, with good communication skills, both oral and written, with working knowledge in computer operations (CAD, ACCESS and Program Manager).

Please bring your resumé with 2x2 photo on or before May 1, 2002 to:

Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
Department of Education
5th Floor Building, Dep Ed Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

CALLING ALL PROFESSIONALS & COMPANY OWNERS / HR MANAGERS

BE A PART OF
WORK AT HOME, INC.

If you are a Professional with the following qualifications:

- ▲ Graduate of Ateneo, La Salle, UP, UST, Assumption, San Beda, Mapua, St. Paul, St. Scholatica and other reputable schools
- ▲ Preferabably with working experience from the 1st Top 1,000 Corporation environment
- ▲ Has tools of the trade like a fax machine computer and e-mail at home
- ▲ Minimum 3-5 years experience

And if you are Employer looking for Applicants with these qualifications, then get in touch with us, we might have the right professional for the job. Which may include:

A Mystery Shopper (Food Chain, Electrical Standards, Mechanical Standards), Tutor for Cooking, Tutor for Domestic Helpers, Billing Clerks, Accountants, Collector, Feasibility / Project Study, Clerical Work, Sales Representatives, Marketing Services Representative, Transcriptors, System Engineer, Data Encoder, Internet Researcher, Database Developer, Book Keeper, Auditor, Credit Investigator, Telemarketer, Architect, Engineer, Payroll Clerk, Copy Writer, Graphic Artists, Illustrator or any related profession...

And if this Ad interests you, then get in touch with us, send or apply personally with your resumé!

FOR INQUIRIES

Work at Home, Inc. (WAH, Inc.)
Room 203 Jovan Condominium
600 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Fax: 533-19-54
E-mail: workhome@info.com.ph

SPORTSHOUSE INT'L LEISURE INC.

is in need of qualified and dynamic individual
to fill the following vacant positions:

ACCOUNTANT

- Female, Preferably single, 25-30 years old
- Possess good moral character
- Willing to work under pressure
- Flexible

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Female, Preferably single, 25-30 years old
- Accounting graduate
- At least one year working experience
- With pleasing personality

BRANCH CASHIER

- Female
- College level
- Computer literate
- Willing to be assigned in any branches
- With pleasing personality

Interested applicants may come personally at:

19 PECTON BLDG., GILMORE AVE., NEW MANILA, QUEZON CITY
or you may call us at 721-2480/721-5553

AYALA AVIATION
CORPORATION

AYALA AVIATION CORPORATION,
a wholly-owned subsidiary of AYALA CORPORATION,
has a job opportunity for a . . .

Chief Financial Officer

He/She must be/have:

- ✓ At least (3) three years experience Finance/Accounting Manager.
- ✓ College graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, or other related degrees.
- ✓ must be a CPA and preferably with an MBA degree
- ✓ Pleasing personality, team orientated, with a relentless drive to succeed.
- ✓ Highly analytical.
- ✓ Computer literate, preferably with knowledge in LAN.
- ✓ 30 - 45 years old.

WE OFFER ATTRACTIVE REMUNERATION PACKAGE.

Send or bring your comprehensive resume with your recent 2"x2" picture to Ayala Hangar, Domestic Airport, Pasay City For inquiries, please call telephone numbers 832-35-95 or 854-07-64, and look for Rona Ebreo.

An **Intermediary Marketing Organization**
is in need of an expereinced

Administrative Officer

- Graduate of AB / BS Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resources Management
- With at least 2 years experience in recruitment & selection, job evaluation, performance management
- Possesses excellent formal communication skills, confident and efficient
- Must be people-oriented, mature, analytical and highly motivated
- Must be able to adapt to a fast working environment
- With strong leadership, high initiative and organizational skills
- Knowledgeable on labor laws

Applicants may submit their resumè, 2 x 2 picture and other credentials to:

The Administrative Assistant
693 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City 1100
E-mail Address: ccapbdd@pacific.net.ph

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

GM

General Motors Automobiles Philippines

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WE ARE SHIFTING TO HIGH GEAR

Be part of the world's biggest automobile company

We are in need of topnotch personnel to fill below mentioned position immediately!

BUDGET & INTERNAL CONTROLLER

Code: BIC

Knowledge and Experience:

- ⇨ CPA, not more than 40 years old, preferably female.
- ⇨ Must have held the same or similar position gained in a multinational company.
- ⇨ Must have extensive experience in budget.
- ⇨ Must have proven skills in providing adequate internal control environment.
- ⇨ Must have exposure in development of policies and procedures.
- ⇨ Must be computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Office applications.

Competencies:

- ⇨ Good organizational and management skills.
- ⇨ Positive working attitude and analytical mind.
- ⇨ Excellent in time management.
- ⇨ Self-motivated with a strong commitment and drive to deliver.
- ⇨ Able to relate well with others at all levels.

Please send your application documents with contact numbers, and recent 2x2 photo to address below with position code indicated in the envelope:

**BOX MK-82
Classified Ads Division
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue
Makati City**

What Drives You

The Job:
HomeBase RF Consultant

Marketing of HomeBase RF Solution to Commercial Clients. Providing pre-sales marketing and technical support. Overseeing the implementation of the system on site and manage various issues about the system. Collaborating with business partners to ensure that the deployed systems are being utilized properly and are meeting business objectives. Providing analysis on the effectivity of the system and making recommendations on how it can be maximized. Project-based employment for 6 months.

The Person.

A degree holder, preferably in Business or Information Technology. Has 2 to 5 years of experience in Business Development, ideally in Information Technology or the Petroleum industry. Should have good project management skill and strong customer-relations background. Must be analytical, creative and pro-active in seeking solutions to problems. Should be able to work with minimal supervision.

Working for a diverse and globally competitive company. Caltex, a ChevronTexaco company, has a business network that spans the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, and the Middle East. Caltex is committed to maximizing a multi-cultural work force and valuing the uniqueness of each individual. Our passion is to achieve results that exceed expectations - - that of our own and those of others.

If you share the same values and passion, email your comprehensive resume to (Recruitment-CSSC@caltex.com) on or before 15 April 2002.

What Drives You CALTEX

Caltex is an Equal Opportunities Employer. All information supplied will be treated as strictly confidential for the purpose of selection and recruitment. Only short-listed candidates will be notified; for candidates not selected, we would like to thank you in advance for your interest in a Caltex career. Application letters will be filed for future reference for a maximum of 6 months.

Urgent

A member of one of the biggest financial conglomerates in the country is in need of One (1)

MARKETING OFFICER

We assure you of a generous package and career growth.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Single
- Male or Female
- Between 21 to 25 yrs. old
- College graduate from reputable school
- Preferably Marketing graduate
- With selling experience
- With Chinese communication skills (Fookien or Mandarin)
- Willing to travel
- Willing to undergo extensive training

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resume with 2 x 2 picture at:

c/o The Manager, Personnel
Department P.O. Box 1893,
MCPO 1258, Makati City

dmo@philcharter.com.ph
(no attachment please)

Do you have the right connections?

BROKER LIAISON MANAGER

THE MUSTS

- **will direct brokers and broker groups in selling activities**
- **will recruit, organize, and manage brokers & broker groups into a lean, mean selling machine**
- **will receive an attractive and irresistable compensation package**

THE SPECS

- male or female with at least 5 years experience in real estate sales
- at least 35 years old
- has extensive connections with high-end, seasoned brokers and broker groups
- speaks excellent English and Filipino (Chinese a definite plus!)
- ample background in MS Office Applications
- willing to work long hours and weekends

Make the connection.

Send comprehensive resume with 2 x 2 photo to:

Human Resources Department
(Ref: Broker Liason Manager)
Landco Pacific Corporation
3/F Centermall Bldg., President's Avenue, BF
Homes, Sucat, Paranaque
Tel. 807-2232 to 34 / 807-8754 to 58
info@landcopacific.com

LANDCO
PACIFIC
CORPORATION

INCOHO,INC

INCOHO PHILIPPINES, INC. is a call center that provides business process outsourcing services to global clients throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia-Pacific region. Our corporate headquarters is located in Chicago, Illinois.

We believe the most significant asset of our company is its people. We seek to develop and retain the most highly effective multi-skilled work force in the industry through a highly selective recruitment process, comprehensive training, and career development supported by performance based incentives and recognition.

We have an immediate need for the following positions:

Training Manager

- ➢ Master's Degree in Business, Communications, or Education
- ➢ Strong leadership, motivational, and supervisory skills

Commercial Credit & Collection Manager

- ➢ At least 2 years managerial experience in credit & collection preferably in credit card business

Customer Associate Manager

- ➢ At least 2 years experience in supervising and coaching people preferably in a customer contact environment or in multinational company
- ➢ Plus the qualifications for a Customer Contact Associate

Customer Contact Associate

- ➢ College Degree
- ➢ Highly proficient in the English Language (Writing, Reading, Speaking, and Listening Skills)
- ➢ Excellent communication and typing skills
- ➢ Familiarity with Microsoft Office
- ➢ Ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously
- ➢ Willingness to work at different time zones
- ➢ Experience in a fast-paced customer contact environment is a plus

For the qualified candidates, you will be asked to undergo the following:

- English language proficiency test
- Series of interviews on key competency areas
- Reference and background check

For the successful candidates, we offer the following:

- Highly competitive salary PLUS performance-based incentives and bonus plan
- Medical/dental health insurance and other benefits
- Career advancement and development
- Comprehensive and ongoing training programs
- Opportunity for travel
- Dynamic and challenging work environment

To be considered, please send your cover letter, resume, a copy of your transcript to:

**INCOHO PHILIPPINES, INC.
ATTENTION: DIRECTOR, RECRUITMENT & TRAINING**
SUITE 103, THIRD FLOOR
HATCHASIA GLOBALCITY CENTER
31ST STREET COR. 2ND AVENUE
e-SQUARE IT PARK
BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
TAGUIG, METRO MANILA

OR

hr@incohoinc.com

To learn more about us, visit our site at www.incohoinc.com.ph

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www.jobmarketonline.com

Axis Global Technologies, Inc.

THE LEADER IN I.T. PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTION

Axis Global Technologies, Inc. is one of the leading distributors of IT products in the Philippines. We currently represent some of the biggest names in the computer industry. We are currently looking for talented, hard working, self-motivated and result-oriented individuals to join our team. If you feel that you have what it takes, please submit your **resume, transcript of records** and a **two by two picture** to our HR Department from 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday or e-mail to hrd@axisglobal.com on or before April 27, 2002.

Product Specialists-Performance Products (code PDI040702-PS)

You will be assigned to handle products that are used for overclocking such as mainboards, power supplies and cooling systems. You would be responsible for maintaining existing and developing new markets for these products. You will coordinate directly with the Sales Manager on pricing, promotion, stock availability, sales training and product launchings. You must be a graduate of Marketing or any related course. Experience in marketing IT products a definite advantage. You must possess a highly pleasing personality and excellent communication skills. Excellent compensation package awaits you.

Product Specialists-Consumer Products (code PDI040702-PS)

You will be assigned to handle one or more consumer market products such as printers or digital storage media. You would be responsible for maintaining existing and developing new markets for these products. You will coordinate directly with the Sales Manager on pricing, promotion, stock availability, sales training and product launchings. You must be a graduate of Marketing or any related course. Experience in marketing IT products an advantage. You must possess a highly pleasing personality and excellent communication skills. Excellent compensation package awaits you.

Sales Assistants (code PDI040702-SA)

You must possess a degree in Marketing, Communications, Business Management or any related course from a reputable university. You must be highly organized and detail oriented. You must also be proficient in the use of Windows based applications particularly MS Office. You must not be more than 26 years old.

Logistics Officer (code PDI040702-LO)

Male. You shall handle scheduling of delivery vans and motorized messengers and handle transactions with couriers and forwarders. You must be knowledgeable in the routes within Metro Manila and nearby provinces. You must be proficient in using computers particularly MS Office. You must possess a degree in any four year course from a reputable university. Skill in driving and maintaining 2 wheel and 4 wheel vehicles an advantage. You should not be more than 28 years old.

Lobby Receptionists (code PDI040702-LR)

You will be tasked to assist customers at the reception area. You must possess a pleasing personality with excellent verbal communication skills in both English and Filipino. You must be a graduate of any four year course from a reputable university and not be more than 26 years old.

Delivery Drivers (code PDI040702-DD)

Male not over 28 years old, hardworking, honest and reliable. You must have at least 2 years experience in the same field. Minimum of two years college is a must. You must be knowledgable in all the routes within Metro Manila as well as the surrounding cities and municipalities.

Submit your requirements to

The Human Resources Department - Axis Global Corporate Center
20 North Road cor. 3rd Ave., Cubao, Quezon City, M.M. or come visit us at www.axisglobal.com

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A fast growing Filipino company engaged in the development, manufacturing and marketing of quality cakes and other food products.

... offers CAREER OPPORTUNITIES to all SERVICE ORIENTED INDIVIDUALS for its CONTINUOUS EXPANSION PROGRAM

MANAGEMENT TRAINEEs

Makati / Manila / Parañaque / San Fernando, Pampanga

- ✓ Male/Female, between 22 to 28 years old
- ✓ Graduate of BS HRM or any business related courses
- ✓ Must have 3 months to 1 year hands-on experience in the same capacity in any food business set-up
- ✓ Personable & must have excellent oral and written communications and interpersonal skills
- ✓ Can effectively work under pressure with less supervision, well organized and cost efficient
- ✓ Customer-service oriented and with mature disposition
- ✓ Willing to undergo comprehensive training and work on shifts
- ✓ Must be computer literate
- ✓ Fresh graduates with good scholastic records are welcome to apply

STAFF ENGINEER

- ✓ Male, between 22 to 30 years old
- ✓ Must be a graduate of BSEE, preferably licensed
- ✓ Results-oriented and computer literate
- ✓ Must possess leadership skills and can work with minimum supervision
- ✓ Must have at least 6 months to 1 year relevant work experience in the same capacity in the food industry or manufacturing set up
- ✓ Must be willing to do field work and knows how to drive

These are URGENT REQUIREMENTS

Qualified applicants are requested to apply personally or send comprehensive resumé with current picture to:

Code QC 2002-45
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
St. Anthony's Bldg., 891 Aurora Blvd.,
Cor. Oxford St., Cubao, Q.C. 1100

We represent a non-stock, non-profit organization that provides financial assistance and non-financial services to support ecologically sound, economically viable and community-oriented enterprises. The Foundation is currently in need of a well qualified

PROGRAM OFFICER

THE JOB: Undertake the appraisal of project proposals, monitoring performance and effecting change management through funding and development of projects or programs that are ecologically sustainable, economically viable and are beneficial to the community.

THE REQUIREMENTS: A degree in Economics, Agriculture, Agri-Business, Commerce, Business Management and other related fields is helpful, but not a must. Skills in financial analysis, writing/presentation skills, facilitating skills, computer skills (word processing, spreadsheets, database and lay-outing/presentation) are essential as well as experience in development work and willingness and capability to travel extensively.

The Foundation offers a competitive compensation and benefits package. Qualified applicants may send their resume with contact numbers and a recent photograph through e-mail address socioprepreneur@hotmail.com socioprepreneur@hotmail.com or mail to 46 E Eugenio Lopez Street, South Triangle, Quezon City. Telefax Number 928-8671 or 928-8422.

TUTUBAN PROPERTIES, INC.

2/F Admin Office, Tutuban Centermall, C.M. Recto, Mla.

We are a company engaged in leasing spaces for business proprietors or entrepreneurs who would like to optimize their sales potential. Currently, we are in need of competent people to fill in the following positions:

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

- ➢ 21-28 years old; graduate of Communication Arts or other related courses
- ➢ Should have extensive experience in writing and other marketing support activities
- ➢ Should possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- ➢ Willing to work long hours under minimum supervision

MARKETING SUPERVISOR

- ➢ 28-35 years old; business course graduate
- ➢ 3-5 years experience in retail sales marketing in a commercial center
- ➢ With financial background on the preparation and analysis of budget for the department
- ➢ Should have negotiation skills in dealing with the merchants and should be adept in rental revenue framework and projections

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT*

- ➢ 22-35 years old; must be a business course graduate
- ➢ Should have at least two years experience in property or building administration or management
- ➢ With above average communication skills, computer literate and is willing to work long hours even during holidays

CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT*

- ➢ 20-25 years old; must be a business course graduate
- ➢ Should have at least two years experience in handling contracts
- ➢ Should be keen in details and numbers, computer literate and well-oriented in a customer service environment

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR

- ➢ 25-32 years old; Licensed Mechanical Engineer
- ➢ With working knowledge in air conditioning systems, preventive maintenance, operation of mechanical machines and electrical wiring control
- ➢ Computer literate; analytic and pro-active

SECURITY OFFICER

- ➢ 30-43 years old; college graduate; computer literate and has basic knowledge in investigation
- ➢ Preferably a retired/reserve officer of the AFP or an Advance ROTC graduate
- ➢ 5 years supervisory experience in security

* For manpower pooling only

If you think you are the one we are looking for, you may email your resumé at Tutuban2001@yahoo.com or send it to the above address. You may also call us at 2511661 for more details. Compensation shall be justly commensurate to qualifications.

TASCO, INC.

distributor of Imported Oils, Tires & Tiles and authorized distributor of MARIWASA, SMT and TOTO products, seeks:

SALES REPRESENTATIVES - Interiors

(Annual Income - P110,500.00 + Commission)

- ➢ Male, 21 to 28 years old;
- ➢ Degree holder in Architecture, Interior Design, Engineering or related course;
- ➢ Proficient in both written and oral English;
- ➢ Computer literate;
- ➢ Honest and hardworking.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT (Annual Income - P109,000.00)

- ➢ Female, 25 to 35 years old; College graduate;
- ➢ Proficient in written/oral communication, computer literate;
- ➢ Honest and hardworking;
- ➢ Experience in Accounts Payable is a must.

JUNIOR AUDITOR (Annual Income - P136,000.00)

- ➢ CPA, female, at least 23 years old;
- ➢ With at least 3 years work experience from auditing firm or as an internal auditor;
- ➢ Analytical and have good communication skills both in oral and written;
- ➢ Can design and install audit systems, policies and procedures.

BILLING CLERK

- ➢ Female, 21 to 25 years old;
- ➢ College graduate;
- ➢ Proficient in both written and oral English;
- ➢ Computer literate;
- ➢ Honest and hardworking;
- ➢ Experience in invoicing is an advantage.

Send your resumé or come to:

No. 70, 20th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City
E-mail: mbc_tasco@philwebinc.com or rslozano@oceanisle.net.ph

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Rustan's

urgently needs...

TRAVEL COORDINATOR

- ☑ Female, 26-30 years old, mature
- ☑ Graduate of any 4-year course
- ☑ Good background in handling travel matters
- ☑ Good communication skills
- ☑ Intelligent
- ☑ Good interpersonal skills

AUDIT ANALYSTS

- ☑ Female, between 21-27 years old
- ☑ BS Industrial Engineering or Accounting graduate
- ☑ Preferably CPA, and/or with related job experience in external/internal audit, accounting, methods systems analysis and design
- ☑ Computer literate
- ☑ Reliable, hardworking, trustworthy, with good moral character

FINANCIAL ANALYSTS

- ☑ Between 21-35 years old
- ☑ Accounting graduate, computer literate
- ☑ Proficient in oral and written communication with analytical ability
- ☑ Preferably with related work experience
- ☑ Willing to work beyond regular office hours

MERCHANDISER

- ☑ Female, between 21-28 years old
- ☑ Graduate of a 4-year business course
- ☑ With or without experience
- ☑ With good grasp of figures; analytical
- ☑ Must be computer literate
- ☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

SECRETARIES

- ☑ Female, at least 25 years old
- ☑ Graduate of any 4-year business course
- ☑ Knowledge in secretarial services
- ☑ Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- ☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ☑ Must be computer literate

NURSE

- ☑ Female, Nursing graduate
- ☑ At least 21-25 years old
- ☑ Preferably with experience
- ☑ Computer literate

ARTISTS

- ☑ Male, between 21-30 years old
- ☑ Fine Arts or Interior Design graduate
- ☑ With creative skills in drawing, lettering, silk screening, flower arranging, etc.
- ☑ Willing to work beyond working hours

MAKE-UP ARTISTS

- ☑ Male, female, gay, between 21-30 years old
- ☑ Graduate of any 4-year Business course
- ☑ At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- ☑ Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- ☑ Good in oral communication skills

BEAUTY THERAPISTS

- ☑ Female, between 21-28 years old
- ☑ 5'2" and above in height
- ☑ With pleasing personality and clear complexion
- ☑ Graduate of Nursing or Physical Therapy
- ☑ With good communication skills
- ☑ Preferably near Alabang area

BEAUTY CONSULTANTS

- ☑ Female, between 21-28 years old
- ☑ Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- ☑ At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- ☑ Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- ☑ Good in oral communication skills

SALES ASSOCIATES

- ☑ Female, between 21-28 years old
- ☑ Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- ☑ At least 5'2" in height and clear complexion
- ☑ Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- ☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ☑ Good in oral communication skills

TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- ☑ Female, between 21-28 years old
- ☑ Graduate of General Radio Communication Operator or any related course
- ☑ With good communication skills (pleasant speaking voice)
- ☑ Preferably with experience in switchboard and operation
- ☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

TAILOR

- ☑ Male, not over 30 years old
- ☑ At least 1-2 years experience
- ☑ Must have good communication skills and customer-oriented
- ☑ Must have initiative, ability and sustained interests in selling
- ☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

PLUMBER

- ☑ Male, between 21-35 years old
- ☑ At least High School graduate
- ☑ With at least three (3) years related work experience
- ☑ Preferably near Alabang area

Interested applicants may apply personally to:

RUSTAN'S HEAD OFFICE
G/F Rustan Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 727-0206 loc. 2210/2208 look for Lanie/Anna/Beth

Applicants may be accommodated from Monday to Thursday between 8-12 nn

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GLOBAL TRAVEL COMPANY OFFERS CHALLENGING CAREER IN TRAVEL INDUSTRY

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- ☑ Female, single, not more than 25 years old
- ☑ Experience in travel business necessary
- ☑ Can work independently and under pressure
- ☑ Aggressive, with pleasing personality
- ☑ Highly interactive, can communicate effectively with clients and travel contacts

EXCELLENT BENEFITS

Exposure to global company operation • Industry standard compensation • Quarterly profit-sharing • Rice subsidy • Hospitalization plan • Travel benefits • Training opportunities

Send resumé and passport-size photo to:

P.O. Box 1781
Makati City

ST. MARY OF THE WOODS SCHOOL

is accepting applications for the following positions:

- **GRADE SCHOOL TEACHERS**
- **HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS**
- **COMPUTER TEACHERS**
- **SPECIAL PROGRAMS TEACHERS**
- **EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES** (1 Male & 1 Female)

Those interested may apply in person or send/fax their resume, transcript of records and recent ID photo to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR
1273 Batangas cor. Faraday Streets, Makati City
844-1934 / 729-7674 / 729-7675/ 844-1615
TELEFAX NO. 815-1601

E-mail: stmary@pacific.net.ph * stmary.admin@pacific.net.ph
marcials@pacific.net.ph

JOB FAIR

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR REGISTERED NURSES

United States Health Care Company seeks to sponsor qualified Registered Nurses for U.S. Immigrant visas and, subsequently, to offer positions in New York and Connecticut to immigrant visa holders. We will provide sponsorship and paperwork processing at no cost to you. This is an outstanding opportunity to work in the U.S. with a premier health care provider in the Long Term Care Industry.

Please join Gina Pruhenski and Nelia Sakai Kennedy at:

The Hyatt Regency Manila, 2702 Roxas Boulevard,
Pasay City, Metro Manila

Monday, April 15 through Friday, April 19
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

or by appointment:
Monday, April 22 through Wednesday, April 24
Contact us at: 63 2 833 1234 for appointment.

National HealthCare Associates, Inc.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

IN THE FASTEST GROWING REMITTANCE COMPANY

BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT

Job Responsibilities:

1. Handling of book of accounts/record keeping
2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation/Trial Balances/Financial Statement
3. Preparation of government regulatory requirements such VAT/ITR
4. Preparation of disbursement, schedules of fix assets and other pre-payments

We require the candidate to be:

1. Male or female, 23-28 years old
2. Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
3. With 1-3 years of experience
4. Computer literate and familiarity with Accounting Software

What we offer:

1. Attractive salary package
2. Medical & Insurance Benefits

Send your resumé to:

UNITELLER FILIPINO Inc.
1108 Prestige Tower
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center
or through:
E-mail: FZR@uniteller.com

A rare and exceptional opportunity for a

QUALIFIED LAWYER

The Opportunity:

1. The challenge to fully practice and extensively apply legal skills in practically all fields of law, namely: corporate and securities, civil, criminal, family and international law, and at all levels of the judicial systems.
2. The chance to move up and generalize through actual business negotiations into other fields of institutional involvement covering: information technologies, tourism, travel and transportation, international trade, investments and technology transfers, and investment banking and finance.
3. To be eligible, depending on performance alone, to be accepted to full-time general partnership in the firm involving profit sharing related directly to the value of your performance and contributions to institutional profits.

The Requirements:

The candidate must have the following qualifications:

1. Willing to work full time including late and off hours, weekends and holidays, particularly on legal research, and must be willing to immediately prepare full legal briefs with little advance notice.
2. Must have flexible work attitudes to adapt to the firm's existing culture involving total commitment.
3. Willing to travel to other parts of the country and abroad.

Interested applicants may submit their resumé with 2x2 picture, transcript of record to General Lawyer, P.O. Box 130 MCPO 1299 Makati City, Philippines.

BODY & SOUL

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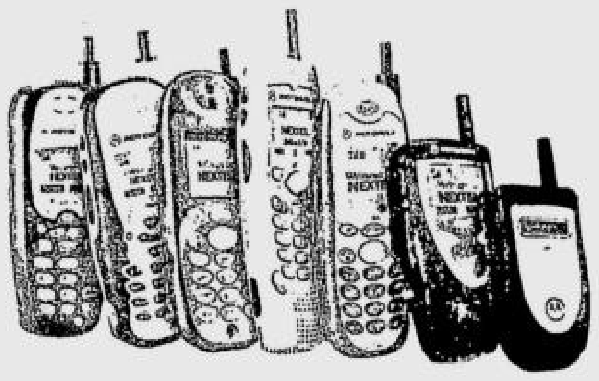

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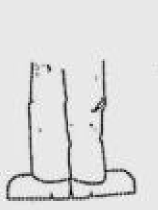

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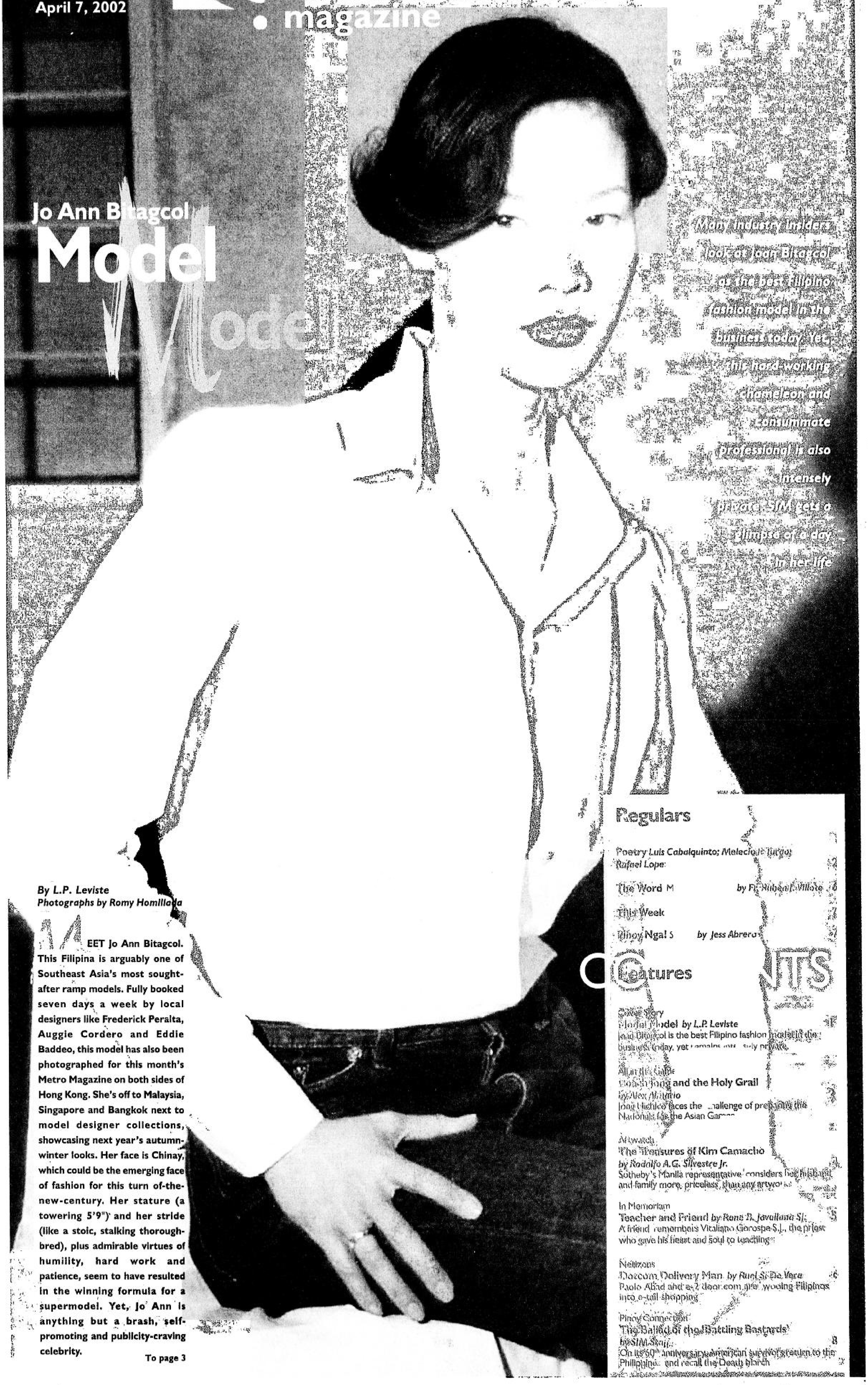

Jo Ann Bitagcol: Model Model

Many industry insiders look at Joan Bitagcol as the best Filipino fashion model in the business today. Yet, this hard-working chameleon and consummate professional is also intensely private. SIM gets a glimpse of a day in her life

By L.P. Leviste
Photographs by Romy Homillada

MEET Jo Ann Bitagcol. This Filipina is arguably one of Southeast Asia's most sought-after ramp models. Fully booked seven days a week by local designers like Frederick Peralta, Auggie Cordero and Eddie Baddeo, this model has also been photographed for this month's Metro Magazine on both sides of Hong Kong. She's off to Malaysia, Singapore and Bangkok next to model designer collections, showcasing next year's autumn-winter looks. Her face is Chinay, which could be the emerging face of fashion for this turn of-the-new-century. Her stature (a towering 5'9") and her stride (like a stoic, stalking thoroughbred), plus admirable virtues of humility, hard work and patience, seem to have resulted in the winning formula for a supermodel. Yet, Jo Ann is anything but a brash, self-promoting and publicity-craving celebrity.

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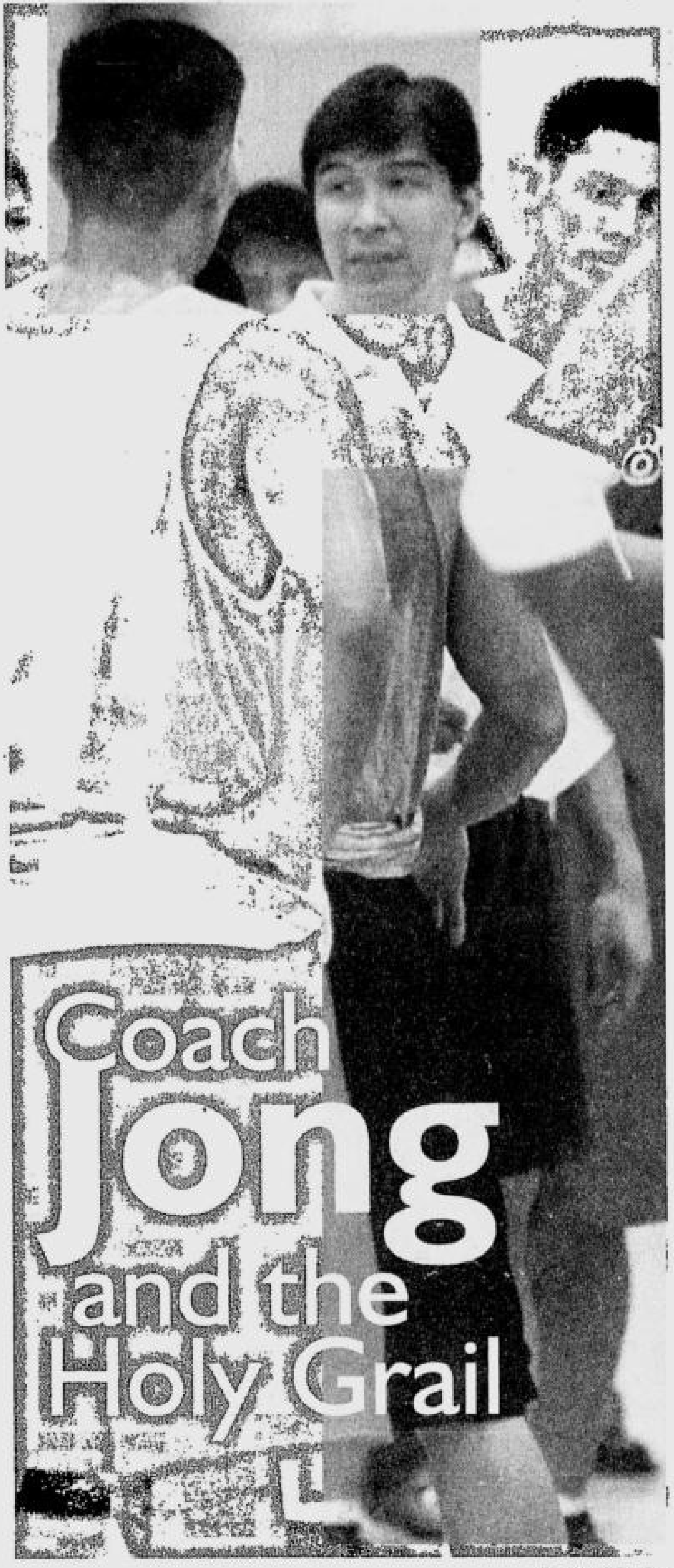
All in the Game

By Alex Almario



ROMY HOMILLADA

Coach Jong and the Holy Grail

Jong Uichico has the best team in the country—and the toughest challenge as he prepares the nationals for the Asian Games in Pusan

IF basketball is all about chemistry, then the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center in Ateneo is Jong Uichico's laboratory. He shuffles the 30 members of the two training squads for the national team and explores every combination. With an apparent abundance of half-Filipino imported players, whose sudden influx a couple of years ago revitalized professional basketball in the country, the team seems formidable.

"There are more Fil-Ams now, but the level of talent is still the same," says the head coach of this year's national team to the September Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea.

Coach Jong knows it's an arduous task ahead. Like Robert Jaworski, Norman Black and Tim Cone before him, he heads another quest for Philippine basketball's Holy Grail—the Asian Games' gold medal. "Of course, we've improved," says the 39-year-old coach. "But we're still the same if you put into consideration how much we have improved and how much (other teams) have improved."

Uichico sees things differently; this is his Theory of Relativity, if you will. *"May lamang na sila, eh,* (They have an edge)," he says pensively of other Asian teams, "While we've improved, so have they." One classic case, he cites, is the traditional height handicap, particularly against China. "Our problem before was that we lacked players who were at least 6'9". We did get 6'9" players in Marlou (Aquino) and Asi (Taulava), but now we have 7'1" and 7'6" players to contend with." Indeed, the Asian basketball universe is expanding.

Nevertheless, Uichico is pleased to say that the players have met his expectations so far and observed that "they have shown tremendous attitude." There still may be eight months to go, but it's never too early to prepare, as previous Asian games have shown. The practice sessions started in January but the framework for the preparations were being drawn out as early as December last year by San Miguel team consultant and Uichico's long-time mentor Ron Jacobs. Later that month, the young mission suffered a setback.

"I was shocked," recalls Uichico. "Coach Ron and I are very close. We just had lunch when it happened. A couple of hours later, I got the call." It was December 23 last year when the 59-year-old American coach suffered a stroke. Weeks later, Uichico, who was initially one of Jacobs' assistants, was officially named as national team coach.

Could there be pressure at this point? "There's always pressure, even this early," he shrugs. He is relieved, though, about Jacob's continuing recovery. "Day by day, he's improving and it's always good news. I'm sure he would want to be involved again, but we have to take his health and the doctors' advice into consideration."

Uichico and Jacobs go a long way. A young Uichico played under Jacobs for the national team from 1982 to 1984. After stints as a high school coach, he began his career in the San Miguel bench as an assistant coach in 1992. After coaching the DLSU Green Archers in the UAAP, he took over the head coaching job vacated by Jacobs in 1999. Three years and five titles later, San Miguel is once again a dominant force in the PBA.

"It's really a blessing," says Uichico of his instant success as a PBA head coach. He attributes this to his players and the help of his mentor as well, who later became team consultant. "The players are very cooperative and you have coach Ron on your side. The players are very coachable and they all believe in you, that's what's important."

A few years back, some critics thought Jacobs became too involved at times. "We work hand in hand and we work very well together," he clarifies. "He (Jacobs) has a lot of input in decision-making." Uichico points out, though, that Jacobs never called the shots during the games. "That's difficult to do, that's too detailed. Of course, during games he reminds the players. Sometimes he comes during practice and in the games. He's very much involved."

Despite his enormous success, Uichico hasn't been given as much acclaim as his other colleagues. But does this multi-championship coach ever feel that he still has something left to prove?

"It doesn't even matter," Uichico laughs. "You will never make everybody happy. You will always have critics, but as long as San Miguel keeps on winning then that's okay for me. That's what's important and that's what I'm getting paid for. That's my mindset, regardless of what people say."

Winning hasn't exactly been an issue for Uichico. Over the last three seasons, no other PBA coach has had more wins. Last season, he had a shot at making history as only the fifth PBA coach to lead a team to a grand slam. But with up-and-coming teams Red Bull and Sta. Lucia in their way, the Beermen fell short of the feat.

"We weren't really thinking about the grand slam," admits Uichico. "But once you win the All-Filipino conference, it's quite natural, you will think of the grand slam. When we lost the second conference, the pressure was eased. We were able to come back to the championship in the third conference because of that.

"You just make it an advantage," he adds. "Grand slam done, you just look forward to another championship, which was what we did. Unfortunately, we lost but the game is catching up on us. Teams are preparing to beat San Miguel. They are molding their team to match up with us. Now we're losing our advantage, so we have to make our own remolding, our own adjustments."

Watching Uichico coach a PBA game, one cannot help but notice his calm and stoic demeanor. "I try to limit my emotional outbursts because sometimes emotions get you to say something that is not right," he explains. "I think more than I use emotion."

Now he takes his cerebral approach to another level. It's a colossal task and everybody knows it. "I'd like everybody to know that the national team is working very hard every day, but we still need everyone's support."

Man with the plan: Jong (center) in a huddle

Sunday Inquirer Magazine April 7, 2002
Vol. 15 No. 5 ISSN 0116 - 232X

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The Cover Image Get to know hot supermodel Jo Ann Bitagcol by spending a day with her
Photograph by Romy Homillada

STILL ON ECHO

This may sound a bit too late but I'd like to express my opinion on your article on Jericho Rosales ("Hunk with Heart," **SIM,** 3 February 2002).

The article was very well written. I should say that the interviewer brought out the best in the interviewee. I'd like to congratulate Ms. Alya Honasan for that piece. It showed in how the article was written. How I wish to see more articles of this kind. Bravo!

DAWN G.
reydda@yahoo.com

THE XTREME KID

It is interesting materials like the article on John Aguilar ("No Wall Too High for Xtreme Kid," **SIM,** 31 March 2002) that can attract more young people to read newspapers and magazines. In fact, it could save the print industry, which is so threatened by other forms of mass media, including information technology. Young people are not shying away from the print medium, but from the garbage being printed. Congratulations to the Sunday Inquirer for its truly enhancing articles and features.

OSCAR N. BAJAMONDE
Concerned Communicators for Development
oscbaj@edsamail.com.ph

BRAVO TO BODYBUILDERS

I was pleasantly surprised and grateful to see your feature on Sammy Ayochok ("Eggs-traordinary Athlete, **SIM,** 31 March 2002). He is one of the many reasons why I wanted to become a bodybuilder. In fact, a magazine did a similar feature on him during the early '80s, and that's how far back the man's bodybuilding career goes. I've always wondered whatever happened to him, and thanks to your feature, I can finally put to rest the rumor that he suffered a stroke and is now unable to compete. I'd like to commend your writer and your magazine for featuring an unsung and sadly unrecognized, bemedaled legend. Kudos also to your feature on Cax Mayuga, another up-and-coming bodybuilder who will suffer the same anonymity if it weren't for your efforts. I myself am working to make our unrecognized Pinoy bodybuilders known through PUMPINOY, a site that is dedicated to the Filipino bodybuilder. Visit the site at www.pumpinoy.com.

Lastly, I'd like to ask for your permission if I could lift and condense some of the info and photos you have on Sammy, Cax, and other bodybuilders that you have featured in your publication. The help would greatly be appreciated. Thanks and more power to your magazine!

TOTI REYES
PUMPINOY creator
Makati City
gregnasser@hotmail.com

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!
SIM strives to pay our valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees – and to avoid an unnecessary trip! – please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

Poetry

To Dust

On the day I feel that weariness before death
I want to be taken to an open field:
out there where I can look at the big sky

with clouds in a huddle; a flock of cranes
or a red hawk soaring by. I want to feel
the bolt of wind on my face, scented with grass.

I want to see the tall trees bend and shiver
in that good breeze, in whose wake flutter
wings of golden leaves. Then, saying yes,

I'll turn into a golden leaf, falling spirally
back to earth, to become—finally—its loam.
Playing witness, not far, a mountain risen.

Luis Cabalquinto

After the Porn Has Gone

When you turn away cold
And caustic it's all too easy
To push me out of the bed,
Straighten my legs to a stiff fit for coffins.

We don't make love
Like we used to any more.
It may be that our lust chart has sunk low, and even flat.
Or we've learned to fuck with respect.

Melecio F. Turao

Lumot

Nakaratay
Sa silid na walang haligi
Ang silakbo ng kaloobang
Ginapos sa ilalim
Ng kisameng umaantala,
Lumilipol sa samyo ng araw
At sa ginhawa
ng banayad na alapaap.

Hindi sa paglayag papaitaas
Gabay ng nag-aalong
Luha't pawis nahagkan

Ang matayog na bukang-liwayway;
Hindi rin sa masidhing pagkahapo
Nalisan ang presong
Kaylamig na parang nyebeng
Bumabalot sa isipan.

Matagal nang yumao
Ang pagsibol ng damdaming
Minsa'y nag-uumapaw
Sa nasang amuhin
Ang mga agos ng tadhana.

Wala na.

Magpakailanma'y ang alab
Ay babaluktot na lamang
Sa sinapupunan
Ng rumaragasang dilim.

Rafael Lopez

Jo Ann

...from page 1

In fact, in an often chaotic world of killer work schedules, bloated egos and incredible intrigues, Jo Ann is the ultimate irony. This is her first interview (producers of three talk shows asked how I managed to convince her, after she even said no to a celebrity profile show hosted by a fellow model), and she doesn't reveal much in print. She guards her privacy like a Sphinx, allowing only a mysterious smile to keep one puzzled. She can't produce any childhood photos, as she says everything was swallowed by lahar in her hometown in Pampanga.

"They were all destroyed in the Pinatubo disaster," she says matter-of-factly. "My family is presently residing in Bulacan, near relatives. I was discovered by designer Peter Lim and Jay Lozada, a fashion choreographer. My first break was during the luncheon series 'Fashion Watch,' produced by Inno Sotto and Richard Tann in 1997." I remember editor Thelma San Juan singling out the statuesque Jo Ann for her unflinching stare and striking ramp walk — a style as no-nonsense as her attitude. This diva has been ruling the runway since.

Maybe it's her bamboo-thin body blessed with broad, clothes-hanger shoulders that make her a couturier's dream. As designer Frederick Peralta says, "It is Jo Ann's beauty that comes to mind when I first sketch an idea or design. She is also so patient with the long fittings, and never complains about the longer hours of rehearsals, pictorials or makeup and hair sculpting. She is not a supermodel. Jo Ann is a classic model like Anna Bayle or Gina Leviste. But unlike the favored mestiza or exotic girls of the past decades, her Chinese face, which can change from seductive to serene, is the face of the moment. It's the emerging Pan Pacific face gaining strength and prominence in the new millennium." In short, it's a consummately professional attitude in the perfect model's body with the ideal chameleon of a face — a winning combination by any standard.

It is in her studio apartment in Malate that I see just how busy this chinky-eyed model's life is. She allows us to photograph her only after a shared lunch of *sinigang* with rice, washed down with fruit juice. "My pores have to wake up," laughs Jo Ann, who, it can be told, looks just as puffy and bloodless as the rest of us mortals when she wakes up. She is constantly on her cellphone, and she fills a small black diary with names and schedules.

Today is Monday, and she is scheduled to do a pictorial with Barge Ramos. Tuesday is for a meeting with Bulgari for a launch, then a fitting with Escada. Wednesday will be an out-of-town shoot in Iloilo for a magazine, so she'll be back Friday, which is when I catch up with Jo Ann again as a fitting finale for Frederick Peralta's Samsung show at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

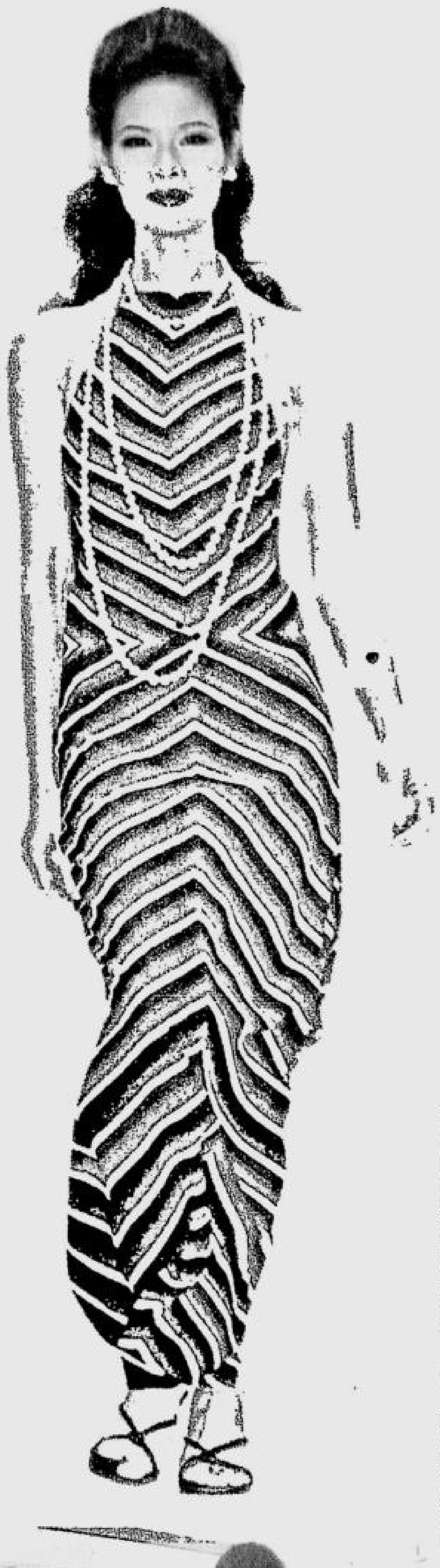
She washes her porcelain face with soap and water and gets into her go-see uniform of skin-tight T-shirt and jeans. Jo Ann, sans make-up, can blend into the crowd. Just the way she likes it.

But herein may lie the balance, how this beauty with brains keeps her size 8 feet on the ground. After the chaotic, adrenaline-charged gala show where 30 models sashayed to the strains of the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, most of the girls got ready to do the weekend's maddening round of parties and clubbing. Jo Ann took us back home, where she put on her pimple cream and cozied up with a pulp fiction novel. She was on her way to dreamland just past midnight.

"It was when I was first asked for my autograph in 1999 that I realized how important keeping my privacy was," Jo Ann says. "I need to keep my sanity, and to draw a line between my public and secret lives."

She is 23 years old, and the picnic is far from over. Privacy is the time she lavishes on her boyfriend, her parents and siblings. Why does this famous face want to stay anonymous? For longevity or mystery? Why doesn't she fit into today's stereotypical wannabe model mold? She doesn't see the ramp as a cannon to propel her to instant stardom (or doom). She doesn't want to become a VJ or a commercial model. She doesn't even aspire to join show biz, or end up as a trophy wife. Nope, she doesn't want iconhood either. She sees retirement after marriage as the supreme end of her financially satisfying brush with hype and glory. Asked when her happiest moment was, she says, "This interview happens to be it," with real shyness and a wink for me to bring her off-the-record asides to my grave.

On these pages, scenes from the life of a supermodel — in the best sense of the title.



The professional (clockwise from bottom left): At a fitting with designer Frederick Peralta; dolled-up elegance on the ramp; your average gal on the street, on the way to a go-see; a filofax packed with bookings she makes herself; this time, sexy and rugged; bedtime reading in her Malate studio for a non-party girl; yes, models get zits, and Jo Ann confronts hers with plain old pimple cream

Artwatch

By Rodolfo A.G. Silvestre

The Treasures of Kim Camacho

The world's most coveted art pieces, jewelry and heirlooms are literally at her feet. But Sotheby's Manila representative Kim Camacho would put her bid anytime on what she considers the most priceless gems on earth: her children and her husband, high-profile Finance Secretary Lito Camacho.

MIKE ALQUINTO

IN good times or bad, artworks continue to be sound investments. More so when collectors are given the opportunity to unload their treasures on the international market. When the buyers' pool is more diverse and knowledgeable about art, Amorsolos and Magsaysay-Hos have a better chance of fetching top rates.

Maria Clara A. Camacho, or Kim, makes that significant difference possible.

Less than a year ago, she was appointed country manager and Philippine representative of Sotheby's, the topnotch international auction house. She has since brought to the world's attention Filipino masterpieces that most collectors hardly knew existed.

Today, April 7, Sotheby's Singapore puts on the block several interesting Southeast Asian paintings, including a Hidalgo that won a medal in Europe, a Manansala, a Legaspi, and a Vitalis that the artist himself gave to a friend. There will also be two Amorsolos, one a landscape and the other a Philippine scene. Manuel Rodriguez is represented with a painting, a rare one since he is better known as the father of Philippine printmakers.

Sure to titillate bidders is a collaboration between HR Ocampo and Jose Joya, even as a Galo Ocampo depicting Balinese dancers will certainly offer stiff competition. All these were sourced by Kim, and she enjoins Manila's collectors to participate in today's auction, disclosing that in the last one, "many Filipino masterpieces came back here, but with the added prestige of having been acquired from a Sotheby's auction."

Kim, who's wife to Finance Secretary Lito Camacho, says she enjoys her work. "For starters, it does not get in the way of my family life. A lot of people I deal with do not even wake up before 11 in the morning, by which time, my husband has long gone to work, and the children to school," says this mother of six.

The work, she adds, also allows her to meet a lot of people and keeps her in constant touch with friends from way back. Indeed, Bacolod-born Kim is a very familiar face in Manila's rarefied circles, who may either be potential bidders or are looking for a quiet and dignified way to dispose of their family heirlooms. It certainly helps that Kim speaks intermediate Spanish and French.

Bidding, she explains, isn't that complicated. "You can be there on the floor where the action is taking place, you can be on the phone being updated by a Sotheby's representative, or you can submit a written bid on an absentee bid form, with the auctioneer exercising the privileges that would have been accorded you if you were right there on the floor."

In an absentee bid, she points out, it's possible to win below one's bid price. "If the auctioneer begins at, say, $4,000 and then, at $6,000, nobody wants to bid against you anymore, you win it at $6,500, and you can keep the difference."

One time, she recalls representing a client who gave a bid of $700,000. She got the item for only $390,000. She clarifies, however, that "the final amount should reach the reserve price, the minimum amount at which the owner would be willing to unload the item. If that price is not reached, he'd rather not sell."

But again, says Kim, "Some items do not have reserve prices, which means they can go for a very low price. Even in the auction of magnificent jewelry, some pieces can go for as low as HK$4,000. So, it's not true that you have to be very rich to even consider bidding at Sotheby's."

She adds that compared to our Asian neighbors, our period jewelry pieces are much better. "Maybe because we were the first world travelers. And of course, when some Asian countries were still a jungle, Manila was already a bustling city."

She recounts how one necklace that came from the Philippines was given an initial estimate of $25,000 to $35,000. It was eventually sold for $70,000. "Which is to say that the market corrects an abnormal situation. Even if you put up an Amorsolo for only 2,000 Singapore dollars, the bid will definitely not stop there."

If Kim knows what she is talking about, credit it to her years of viewing, studying and later, acquiring priceless art. As a student in Boston and Paris and a young professional in New York, she frequented galleries and museums and took up courses in the arts.

As her husband's career brought them to various international locations, the couple started acquiring art every time they furnished their new home. Today their collection includes Korean chests, cherry wood cabinets and an Indian door from a house in Rajastan.

Kim recalls that one of the first few antiques that they bought was an Ah Tay bed. The guy, she explains, "was an artist-craftsman who made beds in Binondo in the 1860s. His beds are distinct, like they have a *kalabasa* where the post meets the bed. As it happened, Lito and I were looking for a bed, and the owner of the antique shop said she had one at home. That turned out to be this Ah Tay bed. It was a large one, which was unique because he usually made small beds. We shelled out P10,000 for it in 1986. In 1989, I was told that kind would sell for P500,000."

When the couple was stationed in the Philippines years ago, all they did on weekends was visit artists in their ateliers in Angono, Pakil or wherever they could be found, says Kim. "We searched out the Baldemors, Pacheco, Blanco, Tam Austria, Danny Dalena and Bencab in Baguio. We would go to openings and make the rounds of galleries."

Kim says she buys a painting for only one reason: she likes it no matter who the artist is. "As a matter of fact, there are some artists whom I like, and some popular artists that I don't."

Among her favorites is Botong Francisco, "who is absolutely fantastic. He is really a Filipino artist. He has never traveled abroad and rarely ventured out of Angono. His art is so pure. It is really the product of his imagination, and not subject to any influence. I guess if anyone ever asked me whose art is the most representative of the Filipino, I'd say it would be that of Botong."

She is equally ecstatic when talking about HR Ocampo, Danny Dalena (whom she considers one of the most talented living artists), and a young graduate of UST, Melvin Culaba "from whom I bought a lot of pieces because he is incredibly talented." The list does not end there. "I have paintings of academic style like that of Hidalgo, and very modern ones like that of Zobel. I like Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Galo Ocampo, and, of course, Amorsolo."

Kim says an Amorsolo will always do well in an auction because he has a large international following. An Amorsolo would fall in the category of 40,000-60,000 Singapore dollars (1Singapore $= P27.61) with the larger pieces going for 60,000 to 80,000 Singapore dollars. The museum pieces can go as high as 300,000 Singápore dollars, which was what his "Maid of Bataan" fetched.

But Kim's knowledge of the arts is just part of the reason that got Sotheby's to open a Manila office and appoint her as its head and representative. Kim knows the numbers side of the business, having graduated from the Radcliffe College of Harvard University with an economics degree. She topped this with an MBA in the same institution, following a curriculum that emphasized international business. Then, she had a summer of intensive French studies at Stanford, followed by a year at the Sorbonne in Paris where she earned a diploma for French language and culture. In New York, she put in a year of studying wines and spirits at the Waldorf Astoria.

Always an overachiever, Kim was the champion of the 1972 Voice of Democracy National Oratorical Contest, for which she got a five-year educational grant from the Manila Electric Company. She went to UP Diliman for college, where she was brigade coordinator for the Corps of Cadets, a member of the UP Mobile Theater, and a top swimmer, having won four gold medals in intra-university swimming competitions.

Before her Sotheby's appointment, she had logged in an impressive business management experience that includes stints with the Lopezes' Rockwell Land Corporation as its Director for Retail Center Development, and with the Yulos' Carmelray Development Corporation as a Property Development Consultant.

Despite such qualifications, her ties to the high-profile Finance Secretary has drawn flak from some quarters. Would she have been appointed to the Sotheby's post if not for her husband's Cabinet position? A letter to the editor also accused her of taking advantage of her husband's connections.

"It's all part of the game," Kim says, shrugging off the intrigues. "I simply rely on my husband's strength. I also pray a lot and ask my friends and loved ones to include us in their prayers."

She adds: "But it's funny how some people talk. Truth is I don't even introduce myself unless I am asked how I'm related to Secretary Camacho. And then I say I'm his wife."

Her children, Kim adds, "fortunately do not read the newspapers or watch newscasts. So, they're not aware of the controversial things hurled at our family."

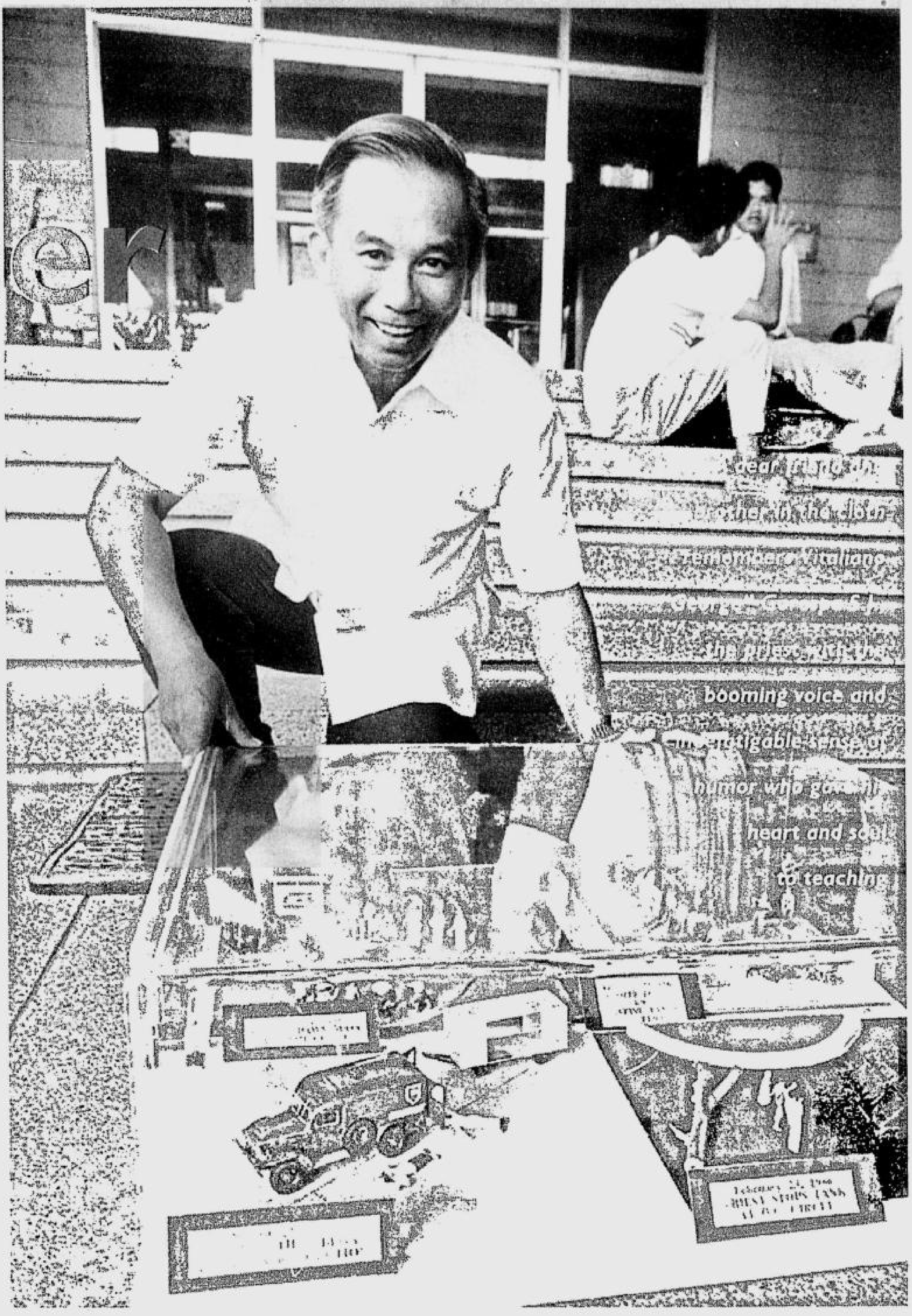
Despite being surrounded by the world's treasures, she admits that her children remain her greatest gems. With obvious pride, she names them: "Bea, who is now in Harvard; Lorenzo and Carlos who are in the International School; Anuncia and Jake, in the British School; and Simon, a kindergarten pupil at the Esteban Learning Center.

"In the changing fortunes of time, you can never go wrong with loving and caring for your family. And, of course, your children's education is still the best investment."

In Memoriam

By Rene B. Javellana SJ

Teacher and Friend



SEPARATED by 22 degrees of latitude and 2920 kilometers west of Manila, I received the news of Fr. George's passing away by text message and telephone call. His death was not totally unexpected. I had said goodbye to him when I visited him on January 13, at the ICU of Cardinal Santos Hospital, two days before I left for Indonesia. Although he was conscious, his eyes were glazed. They no longer glimmered with the light of this world nor were they focused on the here and now, but instead seemed to have their sights set on some shore more distant.

I was to learn through e-mail about the circumstances of George's demise. It was as he would have liked it: attended by music, surrounded by people whom he cared for, and at home.

Fr. Vitaliano R. Gorospe, "George" to most, was visited by some of his former students. They sang to him, and he clearly acknowledged their presence and signaled his delight at their singing. Then, while they were singing the "Salve Regina," he expired. This was the afternoon of January 28.

Fr. George loved music. Although he could never carry a tune, he was for many years the moderator of the Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club. He attended all their concerts when he was able, and joined them in the many tours they had in the United States and Europe. Although he said the Glee Club did not really need him because Joel Navarro, the director and conductor, could provide more spiritual direction and inspiration than he did, the members thought otherwise. They cherished the presence of Fr. George, and he was equally proud of them. When Trina Belamide's "Tell the World of His Love" was chosen as the theme for Pope John Paul II's visit during the World Youth Day in Manila, George tried to learn the song, words and actions, despite being musically challenged.

But when it came to teaching, Fr. George was a master. For almost four decades, he was a commanding presence on the Ateneo Campus. Physically he did not stand tall like others but his loud, booming voice and his peals of laughter were heard not just in the classrooms but in the departmental offices as well. This vortex of energy would have ended much earlier if not for the timely intervention of Dr. Paul Garcia, and George believed it was a miracle that he experienced. A decade or so ago, he collapsed while teaching in class. Fr. William Kreutz rushed him to the hospital, and after a long operation to repair a tear in his aorta and months of recuperation, George was back again, teaching.

While he was recuperating from surgery, I received a frantic call from Fr. Assandas Balchand, then the chair of the Department of Theology, to teach the classes Fr. George had, as there were but six weeks left until the semester's closing. George gave me free rein to look at his notes and other teaching strategies he used. His only instruction was to use them creatively and as best I could, and "please finish the semester for me." Then I found out what a careful and conscientious teacher George was. He had kept a file of 3 x 5 cards with the names and information about his students, some going back many decades. Some cards had been updated, for instance, if someone had gotten married or changed address. His class notes were in good order. Everything needed to teach a course, short of the taped answers to the oral exams, were all put down in writing.

George took his teaching job seriously, but his being a teacher even more seriously. This bond between student and teacher I saw in the older alumni, like Cesar Concio, who was his lifelong friend. George would drag me to Cesar's home by luring me with prospects of dining on puttanesca.

Fr. George's academic interests centered on the practical. Perhaps it was the Ilocano in him, raised as he was in the mountains of Baguio. He did not care too much about speculative thought, but wrote on such things as violence, civil disobedience, Filipino values and so forth. In the 1970s, during a Sabbatical from the university, he traveled to South America where luminaries like Gustavo Gutierrez and Luis Segundo were expounding a new current of theological thought, the theology of liberation. Returning from almost a year of study and observation, he and other faculty members of theology introduced this trend to the Ateneo. It was a dangerous time to do so, because President Ferdinand Marcos had placed the country under martial law and any discourse on social justice and reform was suspect. But Fr. George saw theology of liberation as a logical outcome of the Catholic Church's social teaching, a theme that had preoccupied him since his youth.

Fr. George and others were instrumental in organizing the immersion program of the Ateneo, which involved sending students to rural communities for a short period of a week to a month to learn first hand about the life of the majority of Filipinos. Not that the students would become farmers, or activists advocating social reform, but George believed Ateneans had to see how others lived. The typical student of the Ateneo, George described as insulated and isolated youth. They "have never crossed Katipunan Road on foot." Their life revolves around three-A's: "Ateneo, Alabang and America." And these, he observed, are the people who will become the leaders of the Philippines, entering business, politics, media and the major institutions of the country. "If they do not know the Filipino, how can they lead?" he asked.

But to achieve this project of immersion, George had to take the first step. With a number of faculty members in the Ateneo he spent a month among the farmers in Laguna, sleeping in their huts, going out with them to their fields, and answering necessity as farmers do in the vast acres of the Lord. His continuing immersion in the lives of the rural Filipino went on as long as he was physically able. He spent weekends in Mount Banahaw where he discovered the religious dimension of the folk. He became fascinated with the different religious groups of Mt. Banahaw. He refused to call them "cults" because of the negative connotation of the term as fanatical, simplistic and deluded. He brought students with him and stayed in the peaceful retreat of Boy and Maria Montelibano, near the religious center of the Ciudad Mistica. His experiences on Mt. Banahaw were crystallized in the book "Banahaw: the Power Mountain."

Fr. George did not confine himself to the four walls of the classroom. Concerned about the growing gap between the information-rich and the information-poor, he put together a textbook which contained not only his class lectures, but generous quotations from Papal encyclicals, Vatican documents, pronouncements by Philippine bishops, and references to the Bible. He was concerned about other teachers in provincial schools who did not have easy access to Church documents.

I asked George once how he wanted to be remembered, and he said, "I want to be remembered as a teacher." As a priest, Fr. George was never known for elegant rituals, cloaked in a cloud of incense, and celebrated with the unhurried pace of those who set their clocks to the rhythms of the eternal. Rather he was known for the record time he celebrated Mass. *"Hinihingal kami kapag si* Fr. George *ang nagmimisa"* (Fr. George leaves us breathless when he celebrates Mass)," students would joke. He was also known for his abbreviated sermons like: "How are you treating your mother? Happy Mothers' Day!" But when it came to dealing with his students or with his colleagues or with the farmers of Laguna, and the mystics of Mt. Banahaw, George would patiently listen, talk and laugh with them. Thus, he passed surrounded by people whom he cared for.

For more than six months, Fr. Vitaliano Gorospe was shuttling between the infirmary at the Jesuit Residence in the Ateneo de Manila campus and the hospital. His malady began with a loss of appetite and a pain in the abdominal area. A series of operations, which removed a blockage, did help improve his condition, but not much. He would fret when brought to the hospital, and when I was last able to talk with him, he said, "I want to go home." Home for him was the Ateneo and specifically the Jesuit Residence. Here he found the quiet spot for prayer, for writing late into the night, for answering e-mail messages he received in large numbers, or for crafting the latest model ship or train layout he was tinkering with. Here he listened to music. Here he sent his Jesuit brothers into spasms of laughter at the jokes he told for the nth time. Here George met God daily. Here George went home.

Dear friend [illegible]
brother in the cloth
I remember Vitaliano
George Gorospe SJ
the priest with the
booming voice and
indefatigable sense of
humor who gave his
heart and soul
to teaching

George and friends: Fr. Gorospe (second from left) with Ateneo colleagues Esther Pacheco, Tina Astorga, the author Fr. Rene Javellana and Doreen Fernandez, left; above right, George in front of the Ateneo Library with his collection of miniatures

Netizens

By Ruel S. De Vera

Dot.com Delivery Man

Paolo Abad used to work in a bank, until he got his hands on e-2-door.com, an online shopping site that has made Filipinos instant converts to e-tail marketing

ROGER CARPIO

EVER wanted to buy something on-line only to discover the company didn't ship to the Philippines? Well, 31-year-old Paolo Abad of e-2-door.com (http://www.e-2-door.com) knows your pain. The vice president, chief information officer and basically the guy who built e-2-door.com is presiding over a thriving Internet shopping concern headquartered in Pasig.

"We have 4,500 members and are averaging well over a million pesos in sales every month," says Paolo, beaming. "What we do is basically allow Filipinos to shop over the Internet, from sites that don't ship to the country. We do the shopping for them." The idea first came up in 1999, conceived by company president Monchu Garcia and his family, owners of Rayomar Management, a series of commercial shipping and cargo forwarding companies. Paolo had been a senior manager at a bank, tackling the riddle of Internet banking, when they approached him. In 2000, he became e-2-door.com's first hire. "I liked the idea and I was given the freedom to do anything I wanted," Paolo recalls. "I felt it could work because Filipinos love to shop and we already had the real world logistics to make it work."

It would take him three months to turn e-2-door.com "from an idea on a piece of paper to an up-and-running company." In October, e-2-door.com was launched. Customers were shy at first, but as Paolo continually tweaked the site to fit customer needs, the trickle of customers took on a broadband quality. Customers shop through the site, pay through a variety of means and can choose their own method of shipping. Paolo explains that the most popular sites are Amazon.com (for items aside from books and CDs), Yahoo.com shopping, Gap, Old Navy, Nine West and Nordstrom. Businesses order items in bulk from the company as well. "We can now buy items from the US, Canada, selected companies in the UK and will be adding more countries."

It wasn't exactly dot.com heaven at the start. "At the beginning, I was squatting in another office and the company had one employee—me." Today, e-2-door has seven employees and will most likely expand soon. "We're now planning to put up e-2-door Australia," Paolo reports.

Despite the worldwide swoon of dotcoms, e-2-door is a bonafide Philippine success story. While e-2-door.com may not be the country's first e-tailer, it is arguably the most successful—the company doubled its sales in the first two months of 2002—and Paolo doesn't plan to slow down. "Our ultimate goal is to bring true global e-commerce to all countries outside major global markets like the US and the UK." Not only that, but Paolo says they hope to eventually reverse traffic as well—use the site to open up Philippine merchants to foreign buyers. Paolo shipped a few answers to **SIM** *about Filipino shopping habits and the future.*

SIM: What, in a zip, is e-2-door.com's mission?
Paolo: "Bringing e-commerce or the Internet to everyone's doorstep"

SIM: Why should the average Filipino surfer click on to your site?
Paolo: Because we open the doors to TRUE global shopping—no longer will the average Filipino be an e-WINDOW shopper when it comes to shopping and buying at global online stores.

SIM: When do you usually go online?
Paolo: From the moment I get to work until I get home, I am constantly online.

SIM: If you could come up with an email addy that would properly describe you, what would it be?
Paolo: paolo@iamoptimistic.com

SIM: What is your favorite site on the web?
Paolo: www.e-2-door.com—nothing compares; through it I gain access to the rich online shopping content of the Internet. Now everything I may want is within my reach (I don't have to wait for a product to be available locally) and I love shopping online.

SIM: What is your favorite (non-virtual) site in the world?
Paolo: My bed, where I watch TV or read a book to relax

SIM: What's your favorite on-line store?
Paolo: Amazon.com—the poster child for online shopping.

SIM: What's your favorite brick-and-mortar store?
Paolo: I love shoes, particularly Kenneth Cole's. So I try to visit the store to see what new stuff they have once in a while.

SIM: What is your favorite digital gadget?
Paolo: My laptop—it is the center of my work day.

SIM: What is your favorite analog or non-techie possession?
Paolo: My watch—I try to strike a balance between the time I spend at work and with my family and this helps me keep track of it. And I also love watches.

SIM: What is your favorite food or beverage for getting all wired up for the day?
Paolo: Coffee—I can't do without it.

SIM: What's the thing you love most about the Internet?
Paolo: The wealth of information that is available. You are no longer out of touch with what is happening around the world—be it news or fashion and all of these on demand and at your fingertips.

SIM: Conversely, what do you hate most about it?
Paolo: The pornography and racist sites that are easily accessible and difficult to police—they continuously and constantly appear. They promote hate and violence.

SIM: How much has the Internet and digital technology personally changed your lives?
Paolo: Though it made a lot of things much more convenient to do, it has also quickened the pace of living. Now it seems everything has to be done in a flash because now we are able to do so through technology—there are no more excuses.

SIM: Is the Filipino truly ready to be wired?
Paolo: The Filipino is definitely ready but the environment is not yet prepared—inadequate infrastructure, especially for broadband access which is the way we should enjoy the Internet, and the inadequate legal framework, to name a few.

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

My Crazy Dream

On my 43rd year as a priest, I look back at my dream of becoming 'a little less than an angel' and marvel at how today's Filipino youth share the same crazy dream of looking for 'new heavens and a new earth where truth, justice and freedom prevail, according to God's promise to his people'

WHEN I finished high school in 1949, I had a crazy dream, and that was to become a priest. What was crazy about "dreaming to become a priest" when you were 18?

Forty-three years ago, becoming a priest was a "big deal." Going to the seminary to become a priest was like entering a mysterious world where priests-to-be were made to believe that they were "little less than angels," that they were set apart from the rest of men, that they were "pure holocausts to the Father," and so on.

And all that was reinforced in the seminary through crazy rules like "no touching," "no particular friendships," "no looking at pretty girls," "no wearing of shorts," "no going to the movies," "no going home except once a year." And when at last you went home for vacation, every one mistook you for an angel. The old maids would smother you with their pious encomiums, the young girls would claw at your angelic face, calling you "cute," while young men wouldn't touch you with a 10-foot pole for reasons nobody knew.

When you were ordained at last, you remained a kind of celebrity especially among novena devotees. They would mend your socks, wash your underwear, give you their first fruits and their last coin. They would keep you up on a pedestal, untouchable, and defend you with what remained of their lives, saying: "Yes, Father," "You are right, Father," "Amen, Father" to everything you said.

Now I understand why it was a crazy dream to become a priest when you were 18. At an age when you worshipped heroes and dreamt of becoming a hero yourself, what was more crazy than to dream of becoming "a little less than an angel," venerated by old women, adored by the pretty girls and envied by their boyfriends?

Then came Vatican II with its "new image" of the priest. The new image of the priest is one that must come down from his pedestal, out of the *convento* and into the places of suffering and pain among the poorest of the poor, and to experience what it meant to be a Suffering Servant in this century.

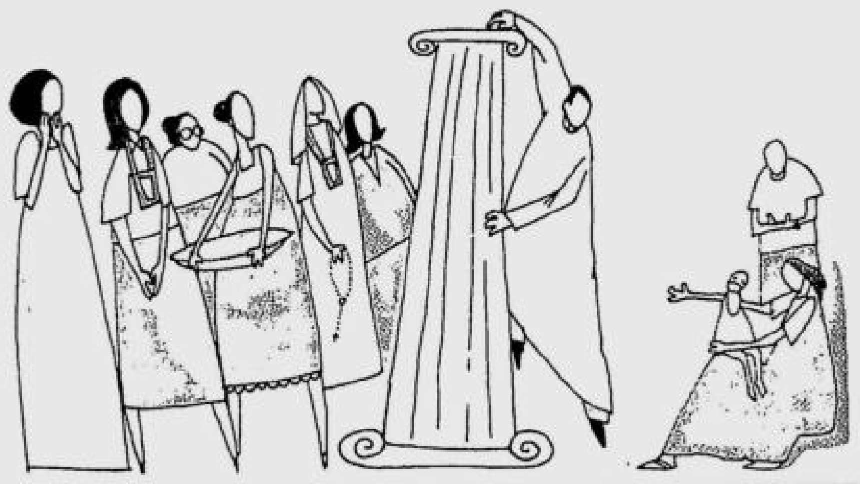


Illustration by ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

When I was ordained in 1959, I had another crazy dream, and that dream was to become a "poor man's priest." It was crazy because when most parents dreamt about their sons becoming millionaires before the age of 40, here I was dreaming of being poor even before I reached 30.

Now that I am no longer 30, but 69 (!), I think I have also become a sort of clown trying hard to live a life exactly the opposite of what the worldly-wise expect. This "new image" of the "poor man's priest" or the "maverick priest" or the "subversive priest" could have made any parent scold his (her) son out of his "crazy idea" of becoming a priest.

But I still believe that Filipino young men and women today are capable of dreaming crazy dreams too. I have seen them leave the comfort of their homes to join mission pilgrimages to tribal villages, refugee camps and city ghettos. I have listened to them asking crucial questions on the possibility of total commitment, sacrifice and solidarity with the struggles of poor nations. I have joined them to places of suffering, enfleshing themselves among the depressed and oppressed, offering their lives defending their crazy dreams of "new heavens and a new earth where truth, justice and freedom prevail according to God's promise to his people."

If the young today want to be challenged to come down from their Mount Tabor to be with the weak, the poor and the unwashed, why should the vocation-recruiter tempt young men to the priesthood by attracting them with promises of Mount Tabor: air-conditioned seminaries, swimming pools, golf lessons, the good life!

If being a priest essentially means being broken and shared, and if being broken and shared is a concept diametrically opposed to our culture of grabbing, acquisitiveness and greed, to be a priest would necessarily mean to be subversive of the present order of things. The priest therefore who is not subversive enough cannot be Eucharistic enough to challenge the young man who is looking for a reason to offer himself totally— as bread broken and shared for the nourishment of God's hungry and spiritually malnourished children.

If these reflections sound crazy to you, you have forgotten how to dream.

This Week

Art

Pulse 2, an exhibit by Australian artist Jacki Fleet of paintings in mixed media and prints using the photopolymer process, until April 19 at the Australia Centre, 104 Paseo de Roxas cor. Perea St., Makati City.

Animal, a group exhibit by Andres Barrioquinto, Kiko Escora, Joel Mendez, Butch Payawal and Ronald Ventura until April 17 at the Art Center in SM Megamall.

The Concerned Artists of the Philippines (CAP) and the friends of CAP recently launched ***Komitment Koleksyon,*** a special collection of 100 sculptural artworks created by Daambakal Sculptors headed by Rey Paz Contreras. CAP will exchange every P5,000 donation with a ticket to be raffled off during the Friends of the CAP Cultural Night on April 13 at the Maryhill School of Theology, 13th Street, near Gilmore cor. E. Rodriguez, QC at 4 p.m. For inquiries, call 421-1880 or 634-1283.

Music

***Hesus na Buhay* (The Musical)**, the story of Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection retold through songs and dances, to be staged at the Sta. Isabel College Sor. Catalina Ledesma Recital Hall on April 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets at P120. For details, call 564-2667.

Two of a Kind, Novo Concertante Manila and the University of the Assumption President's Choir join voices in a night of beautiful choral music on April 8, 7 p.m. at the Aldaba Hall, UP Diliman. Tickets at P200 are available at the gate. For inquiries, call 0917-5356218 or 0918-3215432.

Atbp

Christian Children's Ministry Philippines is holding a **Putting Up a Christian Pre-School** seminar on April 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Seminar fee is P1,750 inclusive of lunch, snacks, certificate and handouts. For details, call 823-2615.

Creative Dramatics Workshop for Kids facilitated by Dulaang Talyer from April 15 to May 10 at the Lopez Museum, G/F Benpres Building, Exchange Road, Pasig. The workshop allows children (ages 7-10) to discover, identify and apply the basic elements of artistic expression and the basic elements of storytelling and acting. For details, call 635-9545.

The Valle Verde Learning Center offers the following courses this summer: **Math Terrific**, a problem solving skills development course (April 8-May 24); I'm Ready, a reading readiness and enhancement course (ongoing until June); Around the World Through Arts and Crafts (April 8-May 24), and Kumon Math and Reading. For inquiries, call 671-9121.

A **Summerfest Bazaar** will be held on April 12-13 at the Celebrity Sports Plaza at Capitol Hills, Diliman, Quezon City. This will feature summer wear, gear, sports, hobbies, crafts and magazines. For inquiries, call Mafe Estudillo at tel. No. 922-2272, fax no. 435-5727 or mobile no. 0917-9136591.

Mandy Navasero will conduct a workshop on **Basic Photography** in black-and-white with darkroom procedures beginning April 17. Participants are expected to have their own 35mm camera with interchangeable lens. Registration is ongoing at 1935 Dominga St., Pasay City or call 522-1905.

The Filipino Martial Arts Congress of the Philippines in cooperation with the Philippine Indigenous Games and Sports Savers Association Incand Arnis Philippines will host the **2nd National Filipino Martial Arts Congress** on April 14 at the Grand Boulevard Hotel (Stargazer Room), Roxas Blvd., Manila from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the theme "Arnis as the Stronghold of Filipino National Identity And Heritage." For details, call the secretariat at 0917-9527811 or 0919-8467171.

HSBC-World Wildlife Fund Save the Seas exhibit will feature marine conservation activities, marine life activities and other related activities. There will be ASAP interactive session (How to set up a basic aquarium, storytelling for kids, exhibits on marine mammals and whale, dolphin watching and many more. Schedule is as follows: April 8-12 (SM North Edsa), April 14-19 (SM Bacoor), April 21-27 (SM South Mall), April 29-May 4 (SM Fairview), May 6-10 (SM Manila), May 12-17 (SM Pampanga), May 19-24 (SM Sucat), May 27-30 (SM Megamall).

X-manila

Silangan Gardens located at 1 Sierra Madre St., Grand Heights, Antipolo City offers **intensive, hands-on and comprehensive art classes** for beginner and advance levels starting April 15. The workshop will be capped with an exhibit on May 12. Workshop fee is P3,500 inclusive of drawing materials. For details, call 697-1015.

Scenes of the Past, an exhibit of paintings in acrylic on canvas and handmade paper by Jojo Elmeda, on view at the Village Gallery at Tam-awan, Pinsao Proper, Baguio City until April 12. For details, call (074) 446-2949.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
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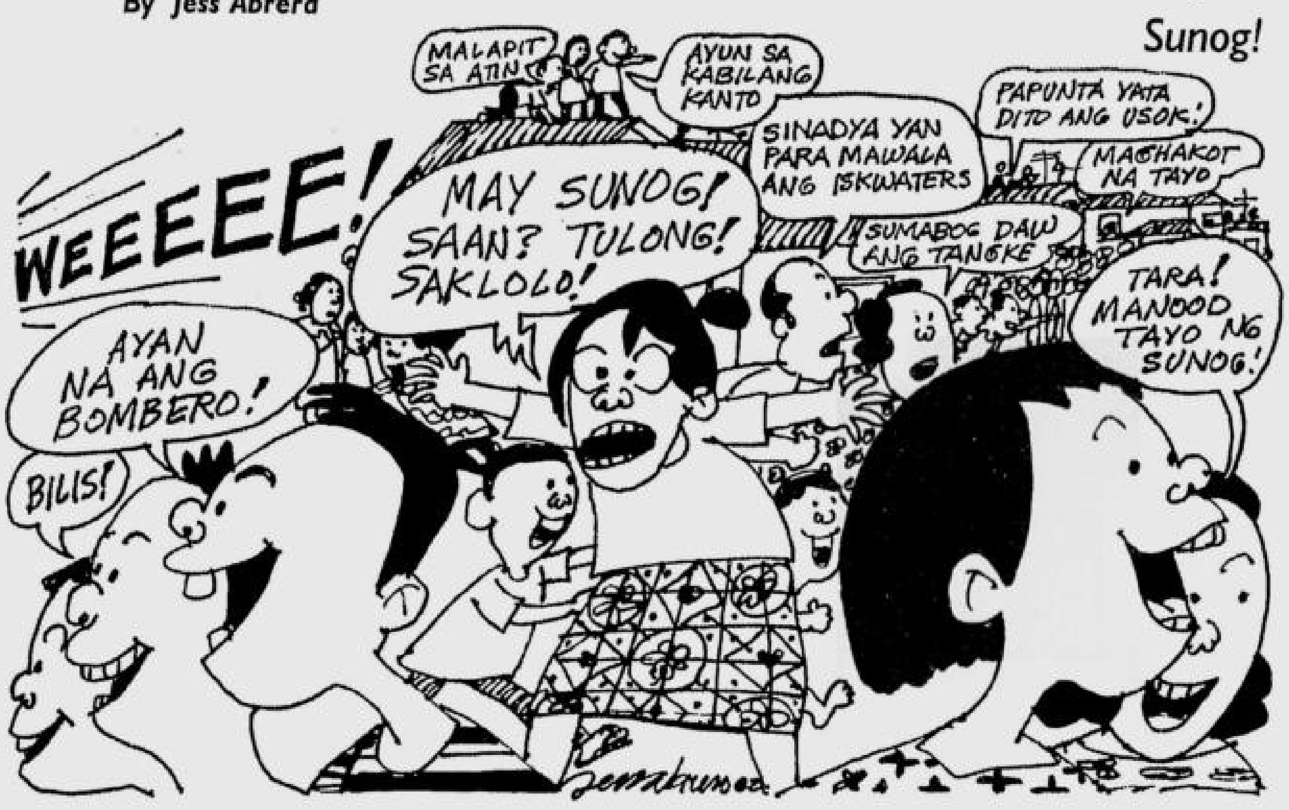
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Sunog!


MALAPIT SA ATIN
AYUN SA KABILANG KANTO
SINADYA YAN PARA MAWALA ANG ISKWATERS
PAPUNTA YATA DITO ANG USOK!
MACHAKOT NA TAYO
WEEEEE!
MAY SUNOG! SAAN? TULONG! SAKLOLO!
SUMABOG DAW ANG TANGKE
TARA! MANOOD TAYO NG SUNOG!
AYAN NA ANG BOMBERO!
BILIS!

Bencab's Woman

Well-known painter Bencab has transformed the image of Sabel, a demented woman discovered many years ago, into what is probably one of the most recognizable icons in Philippine art. Wrapped in rags and plastic sheets, the painter has transformed her into an enigmatic figure living in her own private world—detached and defiant. Bencab has painted many images of Sabel over the years, and he now pays homage to her memory with a major exhibit of recent works at The Luz Gallery in Makati. The exhibit runs from April 10 to May 2.

The

...from page 8

Holding the Hand of God

THAT's what 82-year-old Arthur Campbell remembers of his years in the Philippines during World War II, fighting with the Infantry at Aglaloma Bay in Bataan. "I trekked through those jungles, and I felt like I walked with my hand in the hand of God," says the tall, burly Idaho-born veteran with utmost earnestness. "Are you religious? Do you know what that feels like? I couldn't see the hand, but I knew I was holding on to it. I've never been a religious fanatic, and I still am not, but that's how I got through the war."

Campbell is back in the Philippines for the first time since 1942, when he was transferred from Tarlac, after surviving the Death March, to even more horrible conditions in Mukden, Manchuria. "I didn't know what it meant to be a slave until that happened to me," says Campbell. "If I knew that, heck, if I had been alive in Lincoln's time, I'd have been on the side of the slaves!"

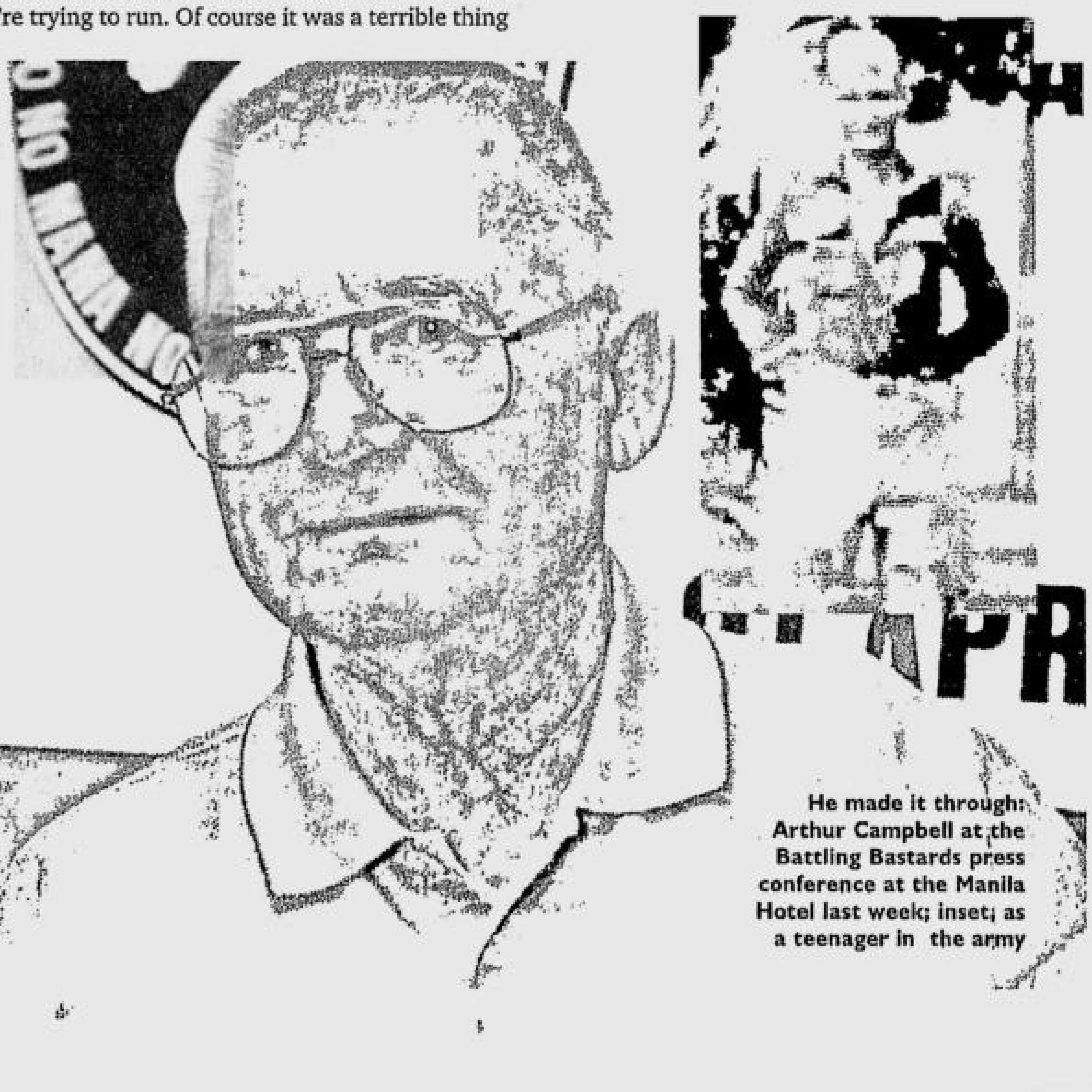
He had no hesitation about coming back here; in fact, Campbell is disappointed that some people who had contacted him in the US about telling his story are nowhere to be found now. He has tried to share his war stories with young people in the United States before, with little success; he is hoping somebody can do the job. "I used to have nightmares, but my brain has given up on remembering the bad things a long time ago," he says of his war memories. "Now I think about funny things." Funny? "Oh, things like getting your foot stuck in a hole when you're trying to run. Of course it was a terrible thing at the time, but now it's funny." Campbell also recalls the time when the Japanese were poised to attack their camp – and one Filipino runner asked for the weekend off.

Campbell, one of seven children, enlisted in the US Army at the age of 18. "I didn't have much of a choice then," he recalls. "My father couldn't feed all of us." This was the time when "sugar was five cents a pound, but you also couldn't find a job if you paid for it." In the aftermath of the First World War and its repercussions all over the world, the army was a refuge for many young American men in search of a career.

It was a career Campbell would risk life and limb for. By the time he was reunited with American troops in Hanqu, China in 1945, Campbell had won six Purple Hearts, each heart representing a battle wound. Today, he can no longer walk straight from shrapnel embedded in his ankle. He was also pinned with a WWII Victory medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, and many others. Upon his return to the States, he married his wife Frances and worked in the automotive industry. They raised two daughters and a son and now live in Rockwall, Texas.

Campbell is still studying the entire Balikatan issue to find out what's really going on. "I've learned so much more about it in the last couple of days than I used to know." Asked what he thinks of now when he remembers World War II, Campbell laughs. "I've got a five-year-old granddaughter who says it for all of us. Whenever I get my diabetes injection, she says. 'Be brave, Grandpa. Be brave.' That's all I kept telling myself then. Be brave."

Alya B. Honasan



He made it through: Arthur Campbell at the Battling Bastards press conference at the Manila Hotel last week; inset; as a teenager in the army

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Pinoy Connection

By SIM Staff
Photographs by Betoy Johnson

The Ballad of the 'Battling Bastards'

He saw it all: Karl Houghton today, and as a young man in the service (inset, back row, rightmost)

I**T was a time of madness and death, but also a time of courage, sacrifice and victory. The year was 1942; Japanese forces had pursued the courageous American and Filipino defenders to the Bataan Peninsula. There, the Americans and Filipinos were to stage a holding action even as General Douglas MacArthur was ordered by the War Department to leave the country. There, in the wilderness, they defended Bataan with whatever they had against an enemy that grew in number even as the Allied forces were virtually erased from the Asia Pacific region. There, they held out against disease, starvation and shortages of ammunition; abandoned but never alone. Even as General Edward King surrendered to the superior Japanese forces on April 9, the men—to a man—never surrendered deep inside. Yet the Fall of Bataan, the single largest surrender in American military history, was only the beginning of their travails. In what is one of humanity's worst ordeals, thousands of GIs and Filipino soldiers were marched from Bataan to Tarlac in what is now forever known as the Death March. For those who survived the murderous trek, more suffering awaited at the camps, or on the "hell ships" that would transport them to other camps in other parts of the country, Japan or Manchuria. All around them was death, cruelty, sickness and insanity. Yet, somehow, they endured, remembering all the time the heroic sacrifice of the comrades who fell around them. In Palawan, more than 100 soldiers were burned to death by Japanese guards in the Palawan Massacre. They all suffered, daily, and in every way imaginable. They would suffer for three long agonizing years until the war's end in 1945. But their battles are far from over.***

They are the Battling Bastards of Bataan, aptly dubbed by an American correspondent. "We felt like bastards because we knew they had written us off," says the 27th Bomb Group's Stephen Raymond, "but we never gave up." This vigorous spirit is embodied in the bastards' motto, "No mama, no papa, no Uncle Sam and no one gives a damn." Yet generations of free Americans and Filipinos owe them for their sacrifice. So we remember, and we honor. "I consider Bataan to be one of the greatest American military victories ever," explains Harold Bergbower of the 28th Bombardment Squadron, "because we delayed the Japs for four to five months and gave MacArthur time to prepare for his return." To this day, there is no quit in these old soldiers.

Nineteen surviving members of the Battling Bastards of Bataan are now in the Philippines once again to remember fallen friends and to remind us of the cost of freedom and the meaning of sacrifice. Every single one of them is a hero with a story to tell. Here are three of the Battling Bastards, each with his own amazing tale. Sound the trumpets. Never forget the valiant living and the valiant dead.

RSDV

They survived demoralization, starvation, and the horrors of war. On the 60th anniversary of the infamous ***Bataan Death March, three American GIs who survived the ordeal return to remember — and to remind us of the meaning of courage***

A Real Homecoming

"I LOVE the Philippines. Being here is like coming home," smiles Cpl. Ted R. Williams, back to these islands for the 21st time since the war ended. For Ted, being here made sense the moment he arrived. It was also the beginning of an extraordinary journey in every way for this unique soldier. Born Theodore Ralph Williams in 1921 in California, Ted joined the United States Marine Corps in 1940. He arrived in the Philippines on April 24, 1940—"my 19th birthday." He served in various capacities at the Cavite Navy Yards as a member of the Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, Fourth Regiment, USMC: orderly, chauffeur, Patrol Sgt., driver/mechanic. "In 1941, I was assigned to a top secret RADAR unit on Wawa Beach in Batangas."

Beyond his duties, Ted loved the islands and got along well with the natives, despite being unable to speak Tagalog. Despite being discouraged by his superiors, Ted bought a motorcycle and toured Luzon extensively. "The place was just beautiful," he gushes even now. That beauty was torn apart when the Japanese struck hard at the Cavite Navy Yards that December as WWII hostilities got under way. Together with the other fighting men, Ted wound up in Bataan, helping move equipment to Corregidor until General King's surrender in April, 1942. What would follow would be trial after trial.

Rounded up by the Japs, Ted and his fellow Marines held on to survive the horrific Death March, only to suffer in captivity at Camp O'Donnell. What stayed in his mind was the ironclad will of the Filipinos who suffered along with them: "The Filipinos were taking the biggest beating, and I am very privileged to know many such brave Filipinos." There was even one particular instance that remains with him today. "That would be the day I walked into Camp O'Donnell after the Death March. We were at a school in Capas and there, a 40-year-old Filipino lady and some girls came to hand out food to the prisoners in defiance of the Japanese. The Japanese captain didn't want her to do it and beat her up three or four times. But she still stood up to him and got her girls to pass out the food. The courage this woman had was just amazing."

Aside from being moved around to different prisons, Ted was stricken with dysentery and began going blind due to malnutrition. In 1944, he was shipped to Moji in Japan to work the coal mines but his blindness resulted in his being assigned to a camp 15 miles from Nagasaki. "I remained there until the bomb shook the foundations of sanity." After Japan's surrender, Ted found his way back, somehow, to California.

After three years of "aimlessness," Ted decided to charge forward into life. He earned an associate degree in Audio Engineering, worked for Sears, Roebuck and Company for 25 years and traveled constantly. He married thrice and enjoys time with his grandchildren. But that's just the beginning.

For someone who suffered greatly at the hands of the Japanese, Ted has forgiven his captors. Despite his blindness, he has written two books about those past days and continues to return to the country, ostensibly to visit good friends. Furthermore, he has striven to make a difference. In 1984, together with the late Capt. Louis Duncan, Ted helped found the Corregidor School, which he chairs. "We put it up because the children of Corregidor didn't have a school." The Corregidor School, which served as a memorial for the Fourth Regiment, will unfortunately close down later this year. But that won't stop Ted. "We're going over to Mariveles and lend our support to one of the schools there."

Asked about the presence of American troops here now due to the Balikatan exercises, Ted is unequivocal in his answer. "I think it's great. I personally wish that the Philippines were part of the US. I love the country. I find the people here the most human of all the people I've met."

Perhaps it is only proper then that the 80-year-old Ted is back in a country he feels at home in. Looking back through the mist of memory, he remains ever insightful and compassionate about all he has been through. "We never learn. It's not us, it's not the people. It's the politicians. They're totally inept. They have no idea what the ordinary person needs in this world. We don't need riches," Ted R. Williams concludes. "We don't need fanaticism. All we need is to be left alone to make a living and raise our children and raise our grandchildren. That's all we need in the world."

Ruel S. De Vera

Frequent visitor: Ted Williams; inset, as a young man prior to his assignment in the Philippines in 1940

Memories of An Epic Adventure

"I DIDN'T miss anything," says retired US Air Force Col. Karl H. Houghton, now 90 years old. "I saw every facet of the war, from the point of view of a POW."

Lucky enough to have escaped serious injury, and with a long and fruitful postwar career in the Air Force and the aerospace industry, Houghton doesn't dwell too much on the pain and suffering of internment, although he saw more than his share. Rather, his stories portray the war in the Philippines as the epic adventure it was, complete with moments of high drama and even comedy.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Houghton studied medicine in Los Angeles. Serving his internship at the Army General Hospital in San Francisco opened up the possibility of a military career, and after a period of training he received an officer's commission in 1936. In 1940, he asked to be assigned to the Philippines where he became an instructor for medical officers of the Philippine Army in Ft. McKinley, among other duties.

When the war broke out, Houghton was ordered to Corregidor by way of Bataan. He got there just in time for the bombing.

"Christmas Eve of 1941 I sat on the beach at Hospital 1 and watched Manila's port area burn. Christmas morning I bummed a ride with some Marines to Bataan."

There he remained until the fall of Bataan. As a physician, Houghton's skills were useful to his captors, and he was moved from one prison to another: O' Donell, Cabanatuan, Bilibid, the "Hell Ships," Fukuoka and Inchon. His longest stint – more than two years – was at Cabanatuan.

"I got to know some of the Japanese intimately," Houghton recalls, and his stories confirm the idea that Japanese officers on the whole tended to be much more civilized than the enlisted men.

The Japanese commandant at Cabanatuan liked Houghton so much that he even left him his office furniture when he was reassigned.

"In two and a half years, his replacement never figured out how to get the furniture back from me without losing face," laughs Houghton.

He also remembers Dr. Nogi, the chief Japanese medical officer at Cabanatuan, who lent him medical equipment and books, and who treated the prisoners humanely.

"Without his help we would have lost a lot more people in Cabanatuan than we did," recalls Houghton. After the war, the survivors of Cabanatuan were able to return the favor when they successfully petitioned the War Crimes Commission for Dr. Nogi's release.

As a doctor, Houghton was given more mobility than the average prisoner, and was often brought to Manila for medical supplies.

"A trip to Manila was an orgy of eating," he recalls. "Filipinos would force all sorts of food on you on the train – eggs, chicken. They gave us so much food that we had to share them with the guards."

When things started to look bad for the Japanese, many POWs were loaded on the so-called "Hell Ships" and transferred to camps in Japan and Korea. Compared with the relative security of the camps, the transports were often targets for Allied aircraft. And if the bombs didn't get them, the cramped conditions and shortages of food and water on the boat would.

"In those conditions, a minor wound was a lethal wound. Those whose wounds got infected died – hundreds of them."

"I had body lice on the Oryoku Maru," Houghton recalls. "They gave you something to do in the afternoons – you'd kill them all."

But sometimes, they'd kill you. They carried disease, and Houghton lost a good buddy – Capt. McKinley Williams – to typhus.

But he survived and landed in a prison camp in Fukuoka, and was eventually transferred to another camp in Inchon, Korea.

"One morning, the camp commandant told us that an 'inhumane' bomb had been dropped on Japan, and that the Emperor had declared the war over. He said, 'You are now officers and gentlemen again,' and told us that we could leave as long as we each took one prison guard with us. The reason was we had to protect the guards from the Koreans, who wanted to kill them."

Houghton stayed in the US Air Force after the war, and continued his involvement in aerospace research and development after retirement when he joined McDonnell-Douglas.

On returning to Bataan 60 years after its fall, with American troops once more in Mindanao, Houghton has this to say: "I can't comment on Philippine politics, but we've had Moro problems the whole time I was here."

Eric S. Caruncho

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